■ SUNDAY LIFESTYLE / D2
A surprise party for the 'primus inter mares' who turns 80

■ ACROSS / A17
Batangas gov calls anti-jueteng czar Hagedorn 'mad dog'

■ NEWS / A7
Despite avian flu threat, bird-watching facility to be set up for tourists

■ TALK OF THE TOWN / A16
Flying out of the Air Force: Pilots joining commercial airlines in droves

UN agency turns to Pinoy music to fight poverty

By Volt Contreras

THE INSPIRATION CAME FROM A videoke-hooked VIP from the United Nations.

If the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG) sound too bureaucratese to hold your attention, maybe recording stars like Sharon Cuneta, Lea Salonga and Gary Valenciano, or

UN AGENCY / A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA, critical senators share food, wine, laughter

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THERE WERE RED FACES, but President Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies-turned-critics in the Senate managed to enjoy an evening of red wine, fusion

GMA/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Sunday, October 23, 2005 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 317 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Cory regrets backing GMA

Endangered tamaraws breed in the wilds again

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT'S BACK TO THE WILDS FOR THE tamaraw.

Experts are seriously considering "closing" the gene pool of tamaraws in Occidental Mindoro. Recent surveys showed that the species, a descendant of the cow, deer and carabao found only in the Philippines, might be better off left in the mountains.

The tamaraw (*bubalus mindorensis*) was nearly wiped out by an epidemic in the 1930s, and then further depleted by the hunt for trade and trophies. It was listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the most threatened mammals on earth. The government has protected the endangered species for the past three decades and established a gene pool.

The tamaraws are endemic to Mindoro and have been breeding well in the wild, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau reported.

In contrast, out of the original 10 tamaraws captured for the gene pool, only two have survived—Mimi and her calf Kalibasib.

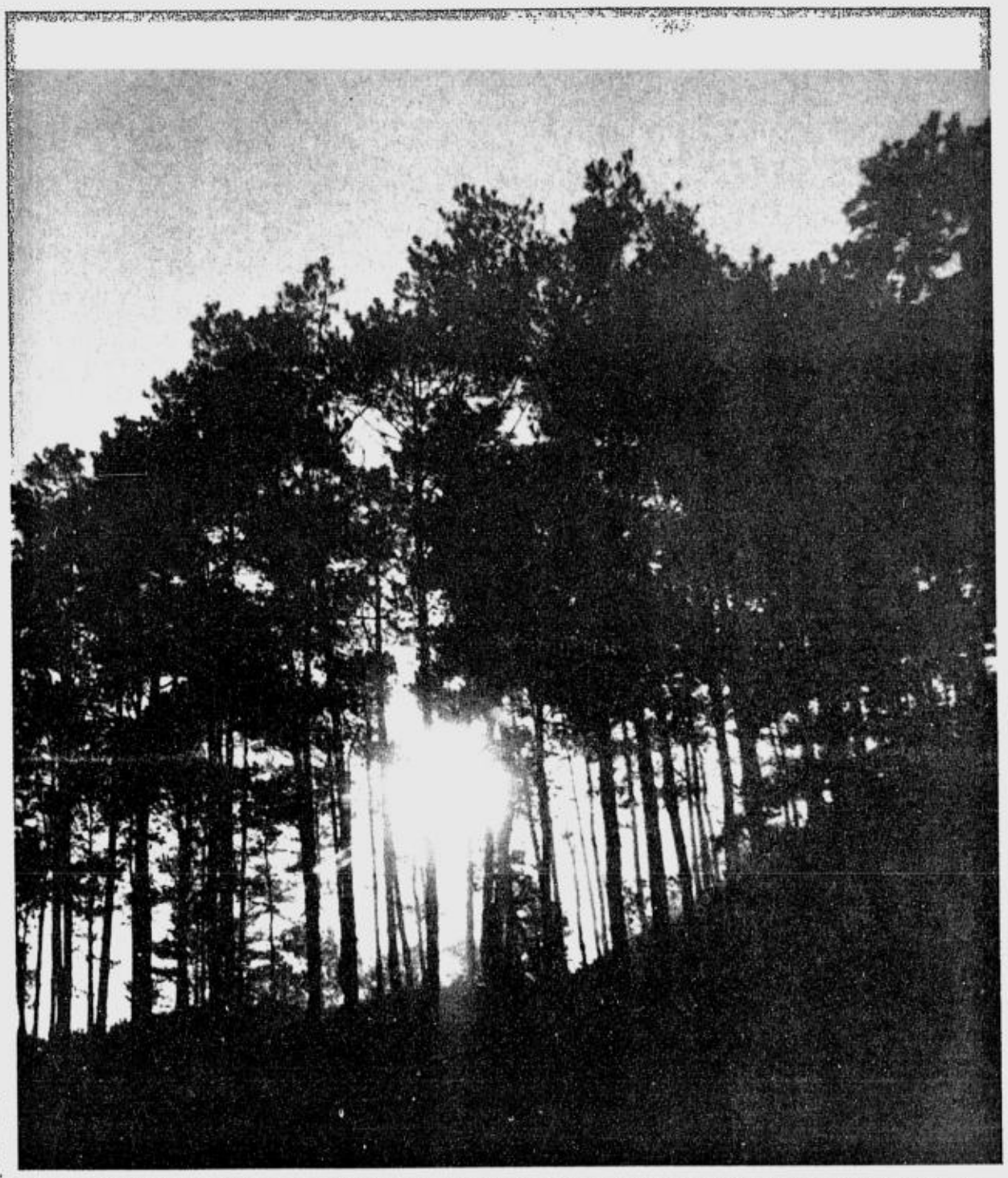
"This is the first time we're going to evaluate if we still need the gene pool. If they're breeding in the wild, then we may not need to capture them for preservation," PAWB director Mundita Lim told the INQUIRER.

At least 269 tamaraws, many of them juvenile, were sighted on Mt. Iglit alone. They have also made their homes on Mt. Baco, Mt. Halcon and Mt. Calavite.

While the population is still critically small and insufficient to get the tamaraw off the country's list of endangered species, the 269 sightings are an improvement over the 100-head count in the past decade.

If the gene pool is closed, Mimi and

ENDANGERED/ A4



DAY BREAKS IN SAGADA. It's been called Shangri-La, this mountain resort in the Mountain Province named Sagada which sits in a limestone valley. It's well-known for its thick forest cover of pine trees, 60 known underground caves—each one legendary for its crystal clear streams—natural pools and silvery or golden stalactite and stalagmite formations. REM ZAMORA

'I thought she would do better than Erap'

By Fe Zamora

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON Aquino and preacher Bro. Eddie Villanueva yesterday publicly admitted regretting having helped Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo become president of the Philippines.

"I plead guilty to the fact that I thought GMA would be a better alternative to Estrada," Aquino told supporters, referring to her decision to back Ms Arroyo's rise to power in 2001, replacing then President Joseph Estrada.

Aquino had joined hands with the late Jaime Cardinal Sin in leading "People Power" protests against Estrada after Senate supporters of the former movie actor quashed supposedly crucial evidence against him during his impeachment trial for corruption.

"When Cardinal Sin and I made our decision, that was very, very easy because we thought that maybe GMA could do better than Erap," said Aquino, who is now leading a campaign to make Ms Arroyo step down.

Apparently referring to Vice President Noli de Castro, Aquino said the current "alternative has not been as attractive."

Aquino spoke at a forum and workshop on possible alternatives to Ms Arroyo conducted by the Black and White Movement, a group seeking the President's resignation.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said political reconciliation between Ms Arroyo and her critics would be difficult for as long as they continued

CORY/ A6

HAUCANANG PHOTO/PDI & ARCHIVES

HAPPY CHILDHOOD (left) of Cielo, 17, and her little sister, Gloria, 11, in Bagulo City, 1957. (Above) The sisters got together last year for capsule-laying rites to expand the airport in Clark, Pampanga, named after their dad.

Big sister Cielo fears for Gloria's life, would rather see her ousted than dead

By Fe Zamora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S big sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, would rather see her resigned or impeached than caught in a violent ouster.

"If she has to go to save her life, her family and the people, I would rather that she do that than cause deaths," Cielo, a former vice governor of Pampanga and the eldest child of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, said in a recent interview.

In fact, Cielo said, she was among those praying that the beleaguered President would make the ultimate sacrifice and step down on July 8, when 10 key government officials quit their posts and urged Ms Arroyo to do the same.

On the same day, citing lingering doubts about the results of the 2004 presidential election, Senate President Franklin Drilon and former President Corazon Aquino, as well as the Makati Business Club, also aired calls for the President's resignation.

"I wanted her to resign because I feared for her life. Is this all worth it? I was scared for her," Cielo said, recalling that critical day in the Arroyo presidency.

But Cielo, who spoke with the INQUIRER in two separate interviews, chose to keep mum on allegations that the President cheated in the 2004 polls.

"That's hard to tell," she said. "That I cannot answer."

Cielo said she had agreed to be interviewed in order to dismiss insinuations that she was "indifferent" to the crisis besetting her sister.

"We are affected," she said. "Some people tell us, 'Forget going into politics again. Maybe your children or grandchildren, but you, forget it.' And people tell that to us straight to our face. Maybe they mean well, but it hurts."

Speaking on nationwide television on June 27, the President apologized for calling an election official during the 2004 canvassing period, an act that she described as a "lapse in judgment."

But she denied any wrongdoing and said she merely wanted to protect her votes.

Cielo said she was saddened to watch her sister's televised act of contrition.

"I was trying to put myself in her shoes. What was she feeling? I really felt very sad," Cielo said.

Purita de la Rosa-Macapagal died of tuberculosis in 1943, leaving two young children—the then 3-year-old Cielo and the year-old Arturo (Art)—behind.

In 1946, their father Diosdado Macapagal married Dr. Evangelina Macaraeg.

Cielo was six years old when Gloria was born on April 5, 1947. Diosdado Jr. (Buboy) was born in 1951.

The family lived in San Juan (then part of Rizal province), initially in the Macapagal house on A. Rita Street and later at the Macaraeg ancestral home on nearby Laura Street.

Cielo said Gloria was playful but studious, and "loved parties, Pat Boone, Robert Redford, Neil Sedaka."

She said Gloria was the favorite of her grandmother, Irenea Macaraeg.

It was usual for the Macapagals to spend summer vacations in Iligan City, where the Macaraegs have a house.

One summer, the then 15-year-old Cielo and 9-year-old Gloria watched a basketball game in Iligan and met one of the top players. His name was Agustin (Gene) Salgado.

Four years later, the basketball star would ask Vice President

BIG SIS / A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/22/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gordon scores FVR, JDV for pushing own agenda

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ADMINISTRATION SEN. RICHARD GORDON yesterday lashed out at former President Fidel V. Ramos and House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. for putting pressure on President Macapagal-Arroyo to cut short her term and conditioning the people into agreeing to a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

He said the two were motivated by their personal agenda.

"This is the diabolical plan of FVR and JDV (for the Speaker) to become Prime Minister," said Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments.

He said that while he believed Ramos had good intentions for pushing Charter change, the former President could also conceivably become a member of the new parliament.

"I don't think the President wants to cut her term. Who in her right mind would want to cut her six-year term? It's JDV and FVR who are pressuring her to [go] that way," Gordon said in a phone interview.

He said De Venecia would want to reduce Ms Arroyo to a ceremonial President.

Earlier this week, Ramos released a statement proposing that the President make the "supreme sacrifice" to solve the political crisis by agreeing to cut short her six-year term.

He and De Venecia have proposed a shift to a parliamentary system by next year or 2007 as a graceful way out for Ms Arroyo who has been accused of manipulating the 2004 vote.

Gordon said another proposal to extend the term of all officials to be affected by the change in political system was meant to remove opposition to the plan.

"This is Marcos all over again. This is a Marcosian tactic to get everybody to agree," he said.

Gordon, who had earlier threatened to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo because of the smuggling of second-hand cars into the Subic freeport, advised the President to resist the pressure from her two allies.

"If I were GMA, I would reject it and stay the course," he said.

He said cutting short the term of the President would create a bad precedent.

He said he could live with a continued Arroyo presidency provided she instituted major reforms which would convey a "presidency full of sincerity and candor."

The President, he said, should launch an honest-to-goodness fight against corruption and smuggling and keep the peace and order, rev up the economy and put more money into investments, tourism and trade promotion, and stop the imposition of the expanded value-added tax on power and cooking gas which are widely used by the poor.

Gordon said he was in favor of making certain amendments to the Constitution and even for a constituent assembly, to be composed of the senators and congressmen, to do it.

But what he and other senators objected to was the way De Venecia and Ramos were ramming the need for a shift to the parliamentary system down people's throats, he said.

I was not hiding, ex-agri exec insists

By Christine A. Gaylican

JOCELYN "JOC-JOC" BOLANTE, the former agriculture undersecretary being sought by the Senate, yesterday denied he was hiding from the senators investigating the so-called fertilizer fund scandal.

"It is very unfair to assume I am in hiding when I am not. I am just very busy organizing this very important and prestigious event of Rotary International. I will not allow this event to be disrupted and let them [senators] do what they want," Bolante said.

Bolante, who is said to have snubbed the opening on Oct. 6 of the Senate investigation into the alleged misuse of P728 million in funds of the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani agriculture program, on Friday eluded Senate aides who were sent to serve him a subpoena at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

His lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, received the subpoena which directed Bolante to attend the Senate agriculture committee's second hearing on Wednesday.

"If I was hiding I would not have even allowed this (interview) and my lawyer to accept their subpoena," he said.

He said he did not snub the Oct. 6 hearing but had not actually been invited.

"You could check page 4 of the official Senate transcription regarding that first hearing. It did not mention that I should be summoned to the first hearing," he said. *With Norman Bordadora*

Despite political storm, economy grew by 5%, says GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo announced yesterday the economy grew by 5 percent even in the midst of the most serious political crisis to hit her administration, and said she believed the country was finally on the verge of an economic takeoff.

"GDP (gross domestic product) from July to September is expected to be stable at 5 percent level over the same period last year, untrammeled by the political noise," the President said in a statement, following a week of incessant rallies and criticisms from the opposition calling for her removal from office.

The President issued the statement shortly before she met with the National Security Council and the Cabinet economic cluster in Malacañang yesterday morning.

"Our economy continues to look up because this government is closely and consistently focused on it," she said. "We must seize every moment for future prosperity. We are at the threshold of an economic takeoff, and each key sector of society must focus more weight on building the momentum for growth."

Albay Rep.Joey Salceda said that since the third quarter embraced much of the recent political crisis, "a five percent GDP growth bolsters the idea of a firewall between a robust economy and dysfunctional politics."

Salceda noted that the third-quarter GDP figure, which was the same as that for the third quarter last year, becomes more significant considering that it was an improvement over the 4.7 percent and 4.8 percent growth registered in the first and second quarters, respectively, this year.

The government expects a 5.1 percent GDP growth this year, down from its previous forecast of 5.3 percent because of the rise in oil prices. Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said earlier that GDP growth could slow down if oil prices remained at $60 or more a barrel.

GDP rose 6.1 percent in 2004, the highest since the 6.2 percent in 1989 and better than the 2003 expansion of 4.7 percent.

Ms Arroyo said the Supreme Court go-ahead for the implementation of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) has boosted investor confidence.

The expanded VAT is the centerpiece of the government's campaign to control the budget deficit and forestall a looming fiscal crisis, but even Arroyo's allies worry that it could worsen inflation at a time when dissatisfaction with her administration remains strong. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., with an AFP report*

8th Asia-Pacific Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Symposium

"Forging Partnerships in Occupational and Environmental Dermatology"

Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel — **October 25-27, 2005**

Organized by the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine and the Philippine Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Group

MESSAGES

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) and the Philippine Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Group (PEODG), and to the delegates and participants of your 8th Asia-Pacific Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Symposium (APEODS).

I commend your organization for brining about progress and development in the field of occupational and environmental dermatology. Your theme "Forging Partnerships in Occupational and Environmental Dermatology," speaks well of your vision of medical professionals collaborating to advance the standards of the medical profession in our country.

May this event create a synergy with our ten-point legacy agenda, which includes programs that could enhance our people's health. I expect that this symposium will discover new approaches that will raise the level of occupational medicine and dermatology.

I enjoin you to continue reaching for your noble aspirations. Together, let us beat the odds and pave the way toward development and success.

Mabuhay kayong lahat.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine and the Philippine Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Group as they host the 8th Asia-Pacific Environmental and Occupational Symposium.

The Department of Health lauds your initiative in working toward professionalizing and upgrading work standards and "Forging Partnerships in Occupational and Environmental Dermatology" to confront challenges caused by changing trends in the health care system.

As you continue to ensure the health and well-being of our people by meeting their health needs, I am confident that you will continue to deliver quality health care service to all. To the participants and organizers, I wish you a successful symposium.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD MSc
Secretary of Health

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you all to the 8th Asia-Pacific Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Symposium. The Philippine College of Occupational Medicine, Inc. and the Philippine Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Group have joined hands in organizing this event in the hope of bringing together the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of years of experience and research in Occupational Medicine, more specifically, such great advances in Occupational Dermatology.

New technologies, new processes, new chemicals and products introduced into the workplace have brought about the emergence of new diseases, the re-emergence of old diseases and the resurgence of current diseases presenting daunting and sometimes insurmountable challenges among occupational and non-occupational health practitioners alike.

This symposium brings together educators, researchers, local and international experts and resource individuals in the field of occupational dermatology to present the latest trends and practices in the control and management of diseases affecting the workforce.

This symposium also announces to the global community that the Asia-Pacific Region is conscious and is actively participating in coming up with efforts and solutions to solve the growing problem of diseases emanating from adverse conditions in the workplace. Let us all enjoy, meet new friends, renew acquaintances and most of all learn from this meeting!

OSCAR D. TINIO, MD, FPCOM
National President, PCOM

On behalf of the Organizing Committee for the 8th Asia-Pacific Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Symposium, I welcome you to this prestigious event that the Philippines is hosting for the first time. True to the theme that we have chosen, "Forging Partnerships," the Philippine Environmental and Occupational Dermatology Group and the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine, together with the Philippine Dermatological Society and PSOH-NS, had been working together for the past two years in preparation for this meeting to ensure that we would be able to come up with an excellent and relevant scientific an social program for the participants of this conference.

Our panel of International Advisors has been very generous with their advice and active participation in the planning of the Scientific Program. I can foresee that this unselfish and open sharing ideas will further propel all our partnerships in future APEODS to come.

To the delegates, may we all be challenged to initiate purposeful alliances i nthe total management of environmental and occupational health problems, particularly skin diseases, which account for a large proportion of medical consultations.

LILIAN L. VILLAFUERTE, MD, MOH, FPDS
Chair, Organizing Committee, 8th APEODS 2005

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

October 25, 2005, Tuesday

08.30 - 09.30 H
Opening Ceremonies and Opening of Exhibit
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Hisashi Ogawa, *World Health Organization*

10.00 - 10.30 H
Plenary 1: Global and Regional Issues of Environmental and Occupational Dermatology
Dr. Goh Chee Leok, *National Skin Centre, Singapore*

10.30 - 11.00 H Advances 1: New Light for Old Diseases
Dr. Ponciano Cruz Jr., *University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, USA*

11.00 - 11.30 H
Plenary 2: Evidence-Based Allergic Contact Dermatitis
Dr. Howard Maibach, *University of California, USA*

11.30 - 12.00 H Advances 2: Evaluation of Skin Irritation
Dr. Kayoko Matsunaga
Fujita Health University School of Medicine, Japan

12.00 - 14.00 H Luncheon Symposium
Publishing New Allergens: Making The Most of It
Dr. Howard Maibach, *University of California, USA*

Simultaneous Symposia
Symposium 1: Contact Dermatitis and Photodermatology
Part I (14.05 - 15.25 H)
Provocative Occupational Patients and Concepts in a Contact Dermatitis Clinic
Dr. Frances Storrs, *Health and Science University, USA*

Management of Photosensitivity Diseases
Dr. Ponciano Cruz, Jr., *University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center USA*

Contact Dermatitis and Patch Testing: Philippine Experience
Dr. Lonabel Encarnacion, *St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippines*

The Subtlety of Photosensitivity among the Sun Shy Asians
Dr. Vermen Verallo-Rowell, *Makati Medical Center, Philippines*

Part II (16.05 - 17.25 H)
The Identification and Management of Skin Sensitisers
Dr. Ian Jowsey, *Unilever SEAC, United Kingdom*

Isocyanate Allergy
Dr. Magnus Bruze, *Malmö University Hospital, Sweden*

Contact Dermatitis to Cosmetics and Sensitive Facial Skin
Dr. Deborah Greig, *New Zealand*

Contact Dermatitis and Antioxidants
Dr. Hee Chul Eun, *Seoul National University College of Medicine, South Korea*

Symposium 2: Environmental Dermatoses
Part I (14.05 - 15.25 H)
Overview of Environmental Health in Relation to Dermatoses
Dr. Ma. Teresita Cucueco, *Occupational Safety and Health Center, Philippines*

Tropical Island Misadventures
Dr. Cristina Teotico, *Metropolitan Doctors Medical Clinic, Philippines*

Indian Ethnic Contact Dermatoses
Dr. Ashok Bajaj, *All India Institute of Medical Sciences, India*

Scabies and Poor Water Quality and Quantity
Dr. Vicente Belizario, Jr., *National Institutes of Health, UP Manila, Philippines*

Part II (16.05 - 17.25 H)
Arsenicosis
Dr. Myint-myint Gyi, *Yangon General Hospital, Myanmar*
Arsenicosis in Mining Communities
Dr. Lynn Panganiban, *National Poison Control and Information Service, UP Manila, Philippines*

A Study of Natural Rubber Latex Allergens in Gloves
Dr. David Koh, *National University of Singapore, Singapore*

Chloracne
Dr. Hemangi Jerajani, *LTM Medical College & General Hospital, India*

October 26, 2005, Wednesday
07.30 - 08.30 H
Residents' Case Presentations / Free Paper Presentations

Symposium 3: Occupational Dermatoses
Part I (08.35 - 09.55 H)
Why Work Site Visits: Clinic Problem Solving
Dr. Howard Maibach, *University of California, USA*

Foot Health and Shoe Wear in Women
Dr. William Lavadia, *St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippines*

Maintaining a Watchful Eye on the Occurrenceof Stevens-Johnson Syndrome in the Philippines
Dr. Dulce Estrella-Gust, *Occupational Safety and Health Center, Philippines*

Workers Allergic to their Socks: The Role of Basic Red 46
Dr. Rosemary Nixon, *Occupational Dermatology Research Centre, Australia*

Part II (10.35 - 11.55 H)
Latex-Fruit Syndrome and Pollen-Food Allergy Syndrome
Dr. Kayoko Matsunaga, *Fujita Health University School of Medicine, Japan*

How I Manage Hand Eczemas
Dr. Goh Chee Leok, *National Skin Centre, Singapore*

Occupational Hygiene in Relation to Occupational Dermatoses
Engr. Nelia Granadillos, *Occupational Safety and Health Center, Philippines*

Contact Allergy to Bisphenol A/F-Based Epoxy Resins in Subway Construction Workers
Dr. Chia-Yu Chu, *National Taiwan University Hospital, Taiwan*

Symposium 4: Cosmetics and Nutriceuticals
Part I (08.35 - 09.55 H)
Moisturizers: Do They Really Work?
Dr. Goh Chee Leok, *National Skin Centre, Singapore*

Cutaneous Manifestation of Hypersensitivity toAnti-TB Drugs: Success Rate of Re-Challenge
Dr. Lara Alentajan-Mata, *Philippine General Hospital, Philippines*

Cutaneous Adverse Drug Reactions
Dr. Al-Young Lee, *Eulji Hospital, Eji University School of Medicine, South Korea*

Anti-Oxidants and Vitamins in Skin Health
Dr. Evangelina Handog, *Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines*

Part II (10.35 - 10.55)
Acetyl Hexapeptide-3: The Botulinum Toxin Alternative
Dr. Pranot Sajjachareonpong, *The Institute of Dermatology, Thailand*

10.55 - 11.30 H
Filler Workshop: New Skin Rejuvenating Material and Techniques
Dr. Abdul Omar, *Relnex, Hongkong*

12.05 - 14.00 H Luncheon Symposium
Putting an "XYZ" to the "ABCs" of Environmental Allergy
Dr. Felicidad Cua-Lim, *St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippines*

Symposium 5: Oral and Nasal Cavities: Environmental and Occupational Issues
Part I (14.05 - 15.25 H)
Disc/Button Batteries in the Aerodigestive Tract
Dr. Rebecca Feliciano, *FEU-NRMF, Philippines*

Lifestyle Practices and ORL Malignancies
Dr. Alfredo Pontajos, Jr., *Manila Doctors Hospital, Philippines*

Silicanoma and Nasal Implant Rejection
Dr. Cesar Villafuerte, Jr., *Manila Doctors Hospital, Philippines*

Biomarkers: Using Saliva to Detect Disease
Dr. David Koh, *National University of Singapore, Singapore*

Part II (16.05 - 17.25 H)
Environmental Control for Allergic Rhinitis
Dr. Anne Marie Espiritu, *Manila Doctors Hospital, Philippines*

Oral Ulcers
Dr. Benjamin Bince, *Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Philippines*

Oral Hygiene
Dr. Lucia Valderrama, *Valderrama Dental Office, Philippines*

Halitosis
Dr. Ely Blanes, *St. Jude Hospital & Medical Center, Philippines*

Symposium 6: Health Surveillance, Financing & Disability Compensations
Part I (14.05 - 15.25 H)
Health Sensitivity, Specificity and Predictive Values of Screening Tests
Dr. David Koh, *National University of Singapore, Singapore*

Introduction to ICD-10 Structure and Principlesof Classification and Chapter XII Diseases ofthe Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue
Dr. Juan Lopez, Jr., *Department of Health, Philippines*

Occupational Contact Dermatitis: Prevalence& Surveillance in Australia
Dr. Rosemary Nixon, *Occupational Dermatology Research Centre, Australia*

Co-managing Work-Related Dermatoses withthe Dermatologist
Dr. Marilou Renales, *Intel Technology Philippines, Inc.*

Part II (16.05 - 17.05 H)
Dermatology and Financing Issues
Dr. Benito Reverente, Jr., *Medical Center Manila, Philippines*

Work-Related Dermatoses and DisabilityCompensation
Dr. Leah Garcia, *Employees Compensation Commission, Philippines*

Dermatoses among Filipino Schoolchildren
Elmer Angus, *Manila Doctors Hospital, Philippines*

October 27, 2005, Thursday

08.00 - 09.00 H Free Paper Presentations

09.00 - 09.30 H Plenary 3: Allergy to New Botanicals
Dr. Frances Storrs, *Oregon Health and Science, USA*

09.30 - 10.00 H
Advances 3: Chemistry of Plastics for Dermatologists
Dr. Magnus Bruze, *Malmö University Hospital, Sweden*

10.30 - 11.00 H
Plenary 4: Allergic Contact Dermatitis: An Editor's Perspective
Dr. Ponciano Cruz, Jr., *University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center USA*

11.00 - 11.30 H
Advances 4: Advances in Natural Rubber Latex Contact Allergy: Recognition and Prevention
Dr. Goh Chee Leok, *National Skin Centre, Singapore*

11.30 - 12.00 H Closing Ceremonies
12.00 - 14.00 H Luncheon Symposium / Turn-over Ceremonies
14.00 - 17.00 H City Tour for Foreign Delegates and Accompanying Persons

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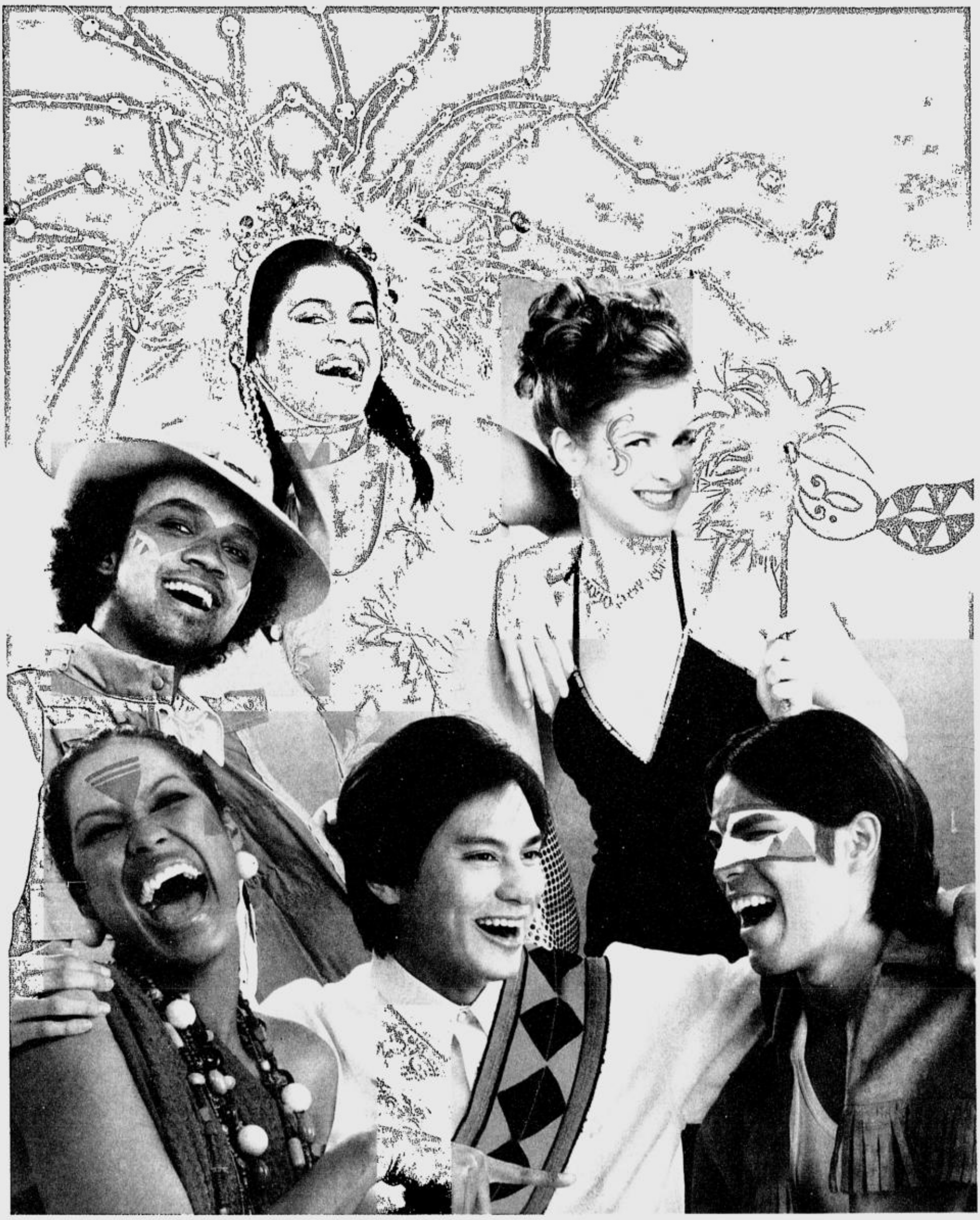

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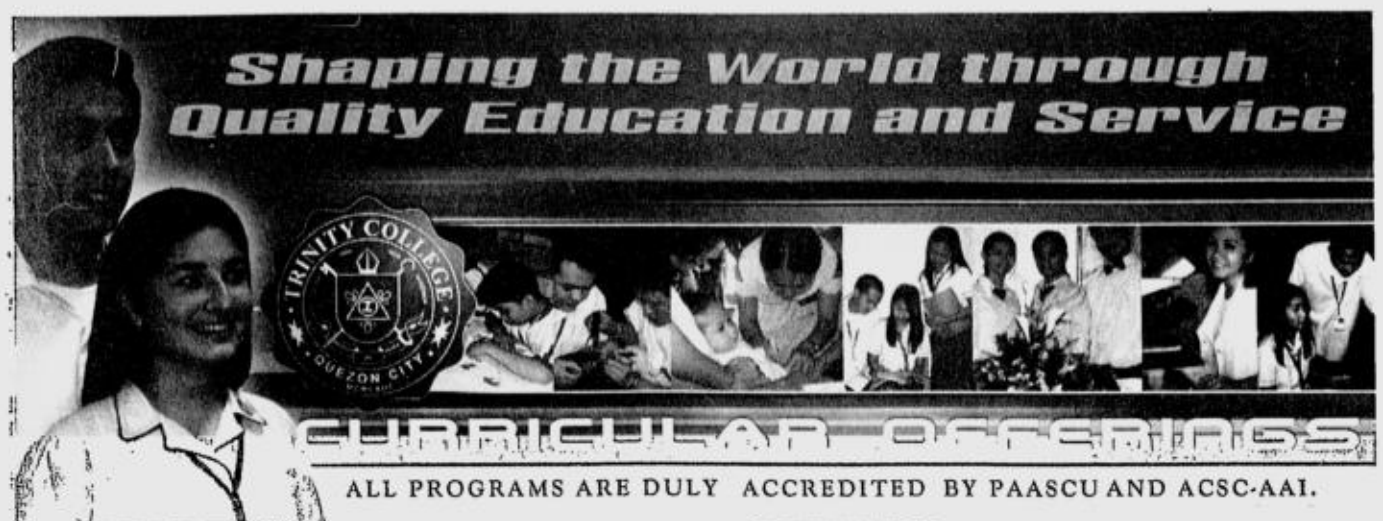

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Erap's knees 90% recovered, says doc

By Norman Bordadora

ALMOST ONE YEAR AFTER HIS successful knee replacement surgery in Hong Kong, deposed President Joseph Estrada was described by his US doctor as physically fit and 85 to 90 percent on the way to full recovery.

Dr. Christopher Mow, Estrada's surgeon, said the former President was doing well after faithfully sticking to his early morning physical therapy and exercise regimen meant to fully rehabilitate his surgically repaired knees.

Estrada received a pair of knee implants during his operation in Hong Kong in December last year.

"Five months after the surgery, his recovery was 70 to 75 percent considering his age and how bad his previous condition was. Now, it's 85 to 90 percent.

"He is now well on his way to full recovery," Mow said at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum.

Mow added that it usually took 46 months to gain full strength in surgically repaired knees.

"He's doing very well. He has kept up his physical therapy and has been faithfully doing his exercises in the morning, every 8 to 8:30 in the morning," Mow said.

The US surgeon flew into the country on Oct. 19 for a routine checkup of Estrada's knees.

Mow spent the whole of Friday at Estrada's estate in Tanay, Rizal, where the former President is under house arrest.

The doctor supervised the deposed leader's continuing therapy aimed at restoring the normal function of his knees.

He returned to the United States yesterday afternoon after briefing the media on Estrada's physical condition.

Mow said Estrada's transfer from the Tanay estate to his residence in North Greenhills, San Juan, was not necessary "from a strictly medical point of view."

"I've talked to the lawyers and I understand that his (request) to be transferred to his residence (is for the legal purpose of being able to attend to his case more efficiently)," Mow said.

Mow told reporters that Estrada had been able to make the most out of his situation with what the Sandiganbayan had allowed in his case to lose the pain in his knees and to regain full strength in his lower extremities.

"But as a matter of convenience to him and to all concerned, it would be best if he (Estrada) could avail of the facilities available in a modern medical facility (than what we have in Tanay)," Mow said.

A motion is now pending before the Sandiganbayan regarding Estrada's request to be placed under house arrest at his Greenhills residence.

FOUND ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES, the tamaraw is now breeding well in the wild, and its numbers are steadily increasing. For the first time in 30 years, the DENR says the country may no longer need a gene pool, which it set up for the preservation of the endangered species.

Endangered ...

From page A1

Kalibasib will not be released to the wild, according to Lim.

No to cloning

The increased population has also reinforced the PAWB's decision not to subject the tamaraw to cloning as proposed by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), the first such proposal aimed at preserving the country's endangered wildlife.

The PCC had wanted to clone the tamaraws in the gene pool but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources rejected the proposal, saying that cloning would reduce the genetic diversity of the species.

"It's not ethical because we still have enough tamaraws in the wild. If there were, say, only two or three of the species left, then cloning could be viable," Lim said.

The tamaraws, noted for their fierceness and determination to attack their enemies even when they are wounded, nearly failed to survive one enemy in the 1930s—the rinderpest, a highly fatal viral disease affecting domestic cattle, buffalo and yaks.

Gene pool

From an estimated population of 10,000 in the wild, the tamaraws had been reduced to only about 150 in the 1970s, prompting the government to establish a gene pool.

Ten unrelated tamaraws were captured in the wild, placed in an enclosed area in Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, and allowed to breed.

After almost 30 years, however, the gene pool produced only one offspring, five-year-old Kalibasib, short for Kaliksang Bagong Sibol. Today, only Kalibasib and its mother, Mimi, are left in the gene pool.

"Not only did they not mate, most of the tamaraws (in the gene pool) died of natural causes... The problem probably is that they were treated much like carabaos," Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro, who oversees the government's wildlife preservation program, said in an earlier interview.

The gene pool had been under the supervision of the PCC and was transferred to the DENR only four years ago.

Tamaraw month

Lim said the PAWB would start consultations this month with the local government, communities and other stakeholders on the necessity of keeping a tamaraw gene pool. October was declared Tamaraw Month in 2002.

Alongside the festivities for Tamaraw Month in Mindoro, Lim said she expects to get the sentiments of the Mindoreños, who are proud of their unique species.

"The people in Mindoro are very aware of the conservation efforts for the tamaraw, and they are actively helping the government," Lim said, adding that the residents themselves have tried to keep hunters away.

Turning down offers

She said the communities had also refused to create a conservation area outside the island even in exchange for foreign funding for the country's wildlife conservation programs.

A zoo in the United Kingdom had expressed interest in importing the tamaraw for education and conservation purposes, with the condition that the Philippines could retrieve the animals anytime after they had bred.

This was also turned down by the Mindoreños.

"They're very possessive of the tamaraws; they also (want) to protect them," Lim said, adding that the communities' ability to keep the tamaraws safe in Mindoro's mountains could be the key to their survival for the next hundred years—with or without the gene pool.

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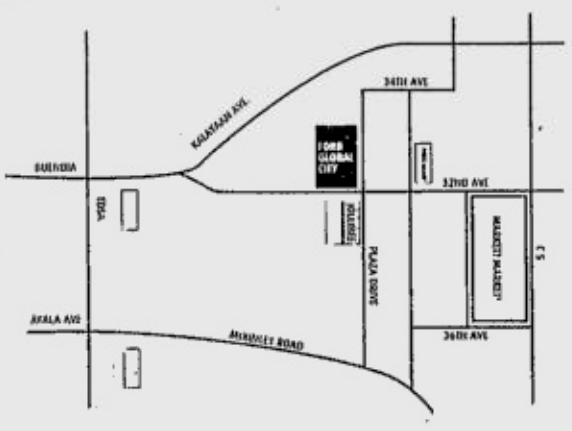

US: MILF must be ally vs terror

By Volt Contreras

ONCE IT SIGNS A PEACE agreement with the Philippine government, the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front is "required" to be an ally in the global war on terror, particularly against the regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah and its known Mindanao-based affiliate, the Abu Sayyaf group.

This is the view from Washington as conveyed yesterday by Henry Crumpton, the US Department of State's coordinator for counterterrorism who was in Manila on the last leg of a Southeast Asian tour to discuss regional efforts against terrorism. He met with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday.

Crumpton said forging peace with the MILF would be the Philippine government's "most effective way" of flushing out terrorist cells in Mindanao and preventing the MILF from providing safe haven to JI members operating in Southeast Asia.

"We believe that when this accord is signed it will put enormous pressure on the JI and the ASG," Crumpton said at a press conference. "We all need to see these negotiations come to a successful conclusion, to bring the MILF into the fold, because not only will this bring them into the broader community here in the Philippines but it also, as you know, requires the MILF to participate and to help the Philippine government in counterterrorism efforts."

The MILF has been waging a separatist war for the last three decades. But unlike the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, it is not on Washington's list of terrorist organizations.

Government and MILF officials have been holding peace talks in Malaysia, and they announced recently that they were close to a final peace accord.

Crumpton said he was both encouraged and impressed by this and other recent Philippine gains in counterterrorism, including the "neutralization" of 183 alleged terrorists and the discovery of 600 kg of explosives that authorities claimed were to have been used in suicide bombing missions against Americans and their allies.

Crumpton said the US was particularly concerned about the possible use by terrorists of chemical and biological weapons. He said the al-Qaida terrorist network and affiliates like the JI have made this intention "abundantly clear" in their manuals. He also cited the discovery of anthrax laboratories in Afghanistan.

"I have concerns not only about the Philippines, but about all countries' preparations for chemical, biological attack," he said. "It's extraordinarily difficult to detect in many respects, and our defenses need to be improved."

Crumpton has visited Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, and is headed back to Washington from Manila. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

Reds deny Ka Satur funding terror plots

LUCENA CITY – COMMUNIST spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has denied the military's allegation that Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo has been providing funds to New People's Army rebels.

Rosal also condemned officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for purportedly spreading lies to malign the NPA, setting up innocent persons for arrest, sowing disorder to scare people from joining rallies, and creating a scenario to justify the imposition of military rule.

On Thursday, Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the Northern Luzon Command, claimed Army soldiers had seized a cache of C-4 explosives and documents from an NPA camp.

Among the documents reportedly was a letter with the logo of the CPP/NPA stating that a certain "Ka Satur" had given P5 million for the purchase of explosives to be used to stage bombings in Metro Manila.

Tolentino had hinted the "Ka Satur" mentioned in the document was Ocampo.

But Ocampo vehemently denied the military's insinuation and challenged Tolentino to file formal charges against him in court.

Rosal maintained that he had never seen or heard of any communication within the revolutionary movement that used the CPP logo.

"For General Tolentino's information, the CPP logo is never used in internal communications. It appears only in official publications of the Central Committee," Rosal said in a statement. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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GMA offering reconciliation, but not her head

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RECONCILIATION, YES, BUT NOT IF YOU want her head.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye stressed this point yesterday in the wake of calls by two major religious groups for an end to political bickering between President Macapagal-Arroyo and her opponents.

"The President has always stated that her administration is ready for a principled reconciliation but those who attack her have a different agenda," Bunye said, according to the transcript of a radio interview released by Malacañang.

"Those who rallied yesterday (Friday) and the past week have only one goal and that is to oust the President who won a mandate to serve the country. If they will continue with this stance, it will be difficult to have a principled reconciliation," Bunye said.

Votes of INC and El Shaddai

Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo and El Shaddai Servant Leader Bro. Mike Velarde issued a joint statement Friday calling on the administration and its critics to cease hostilities for the sake of the people.

Malacañang, in a presentation by Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo, said that, on top of a superior political machinery and rosy economic data, INC and El Shaddai votes had played a decisive role in Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections.

But her poll victory has been overshadowed by allegations of vote fraud, sparking protests against her continued rule.

JDV welcomes Church call

Bunye said Ms Arroyo gave importance to the call of Manalo and Velarde for an end to political bickering and for more focus on solving the country's economic ills.

"This is only proper because we really have a lot of work to be done," Bunye said.

He called on the opposition to tone down its insults against the administration and its officials.

Speaker Jose de Venecia also welcomed the appeal for political sobriety aired by Velarde and Manalo.

De Venecia said in a statement that he had long been suggesting the creation of a coalition Cabinet through a government of national reconciliation to end the prolonged political instability and put the country on the path to sustained economic growth.

Essence of leadership

"True reconciliation calls for political leaders to think less of personal interests and more of how to end the crisis through great personal sacrifices," De Venecia said. "This is the essence of leadership."

De Venecia called on members of the House of Representatives to work out ways to achieve reconciliation, and proposed a period of healing after the impeachment imbroglio.

Cory regrets backing GMA

From page A1

to demand her resignation. *(See story on this page).*

Traitor to promises

"I regretted having helped her but that's how it is, we learn lessons from history," Villanueva told the forum. "I'm sorry in a way that the successor of Estrada has turned out to be a traitor to her promises to fight corruption and injustices."

Among the organizers of the daylong forum were former Education Secretary Fulgencio "Butch" Abad, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, former Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita "Ging" Deles and former Anti-Poverty Commission chair Imelda Nicolas.

The four belong to the so-called "Hyatt 10" group composed of 10 senior administration officials who quit their posts in July and urged Ms Arroyo to follow their example.

Meeting at Burgundy

The workshop was held in the same Ateneo High School covered court where, in November 2000, civil society leaders convened the 2nd Kongreso ng Mamayang Pilipino (Kompil) to map out plans to oust Estrada and replace him with Ms Arroyo.

The first Kompil in 1985 unified the fractious opposition to dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was later ousted in a People Power revolution in February 1986.

Villanueva said Ms Arroyo even invited him to a meeting at her family's condominium in the Burgundy building along Katipunan Avenue at the height of the impeachment case against Estrada on corruption and mismanagement charges.

Also at the meeting were Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and businessman/musician Ramon Jacinto, he said.

Villanueva said he brought along his son, now party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva.

"She requested me to talk to some key religious leaders, to talk to them to withdraw support from Estrada and help mobilize people. She assured me that she will seriously fight corruption, injustices and really fight the evils of abject poverty," Villanueva said.

"I was made to believe that she was sincere. She probably was," he added.

Looking back, Villanueva felt that supporting Ms Arroyo then was probably the "correct decision."

Leader for herself

"I cannot fault the Filipino people who replaced Estrada with GMA. I can only fault GMA herself for allowing herself to be tempted by power and probably money that suddenly she has changed [from being] leader of the Filipino people and now a leader for herself," Villanueva also said.

Villanueva laughed off proposals for a plebiscite to determine whether a majority of the people wanted Ms Arroyo to stay on until the end of her fixed term in 2010, or cut her tenure to three years, until 2007.

An insanity

"Any kind of plebiscite or referendum to be handled by the same Comelec (Commission on Elections) that allowed the rigging of the last election is ridiculous if not [an] insanity, I'm sorry to say that," Villanueva said.

'Sign of stupidity'

"With due respect to former President Ramos and to my good friend Speaker Joe de Venecia, I am sorry I cannot in conscience accept a constitutional change through the same congressmen and lawmakers who shamelessly killed the impeachment complaint, thereby denying the Filipino people to know the truth," the evangelist said, referring to the House of Representatives' killing of the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

"To me again that is another sign of stupidity," Villanueva said.

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Despite flu threat, bird-watching facility for tourists to rise

DESPITE THE ALERT FOR A POSSIBLE OUTbreak of avian flu, the Philippine Tourism Authority will construct a bird-watching activity center in Pampanga to cater to tourists.

PTA general manager Robert Dean Barbers told the INQUIRER that the new center would feature bird species found in the Candaba swamp. But the birds would be thoroughly screened for the dreaded bird flu virus and would be safe for tourists to view.

The center is scheduled to open in December at PTA's Hilaga Tourism Village, the former Centennial Expo Park, in San Fernando City. Hilaga has an aviary featuring ordinary and rare crowd-drawing birds such as the white-feathered crow, believed to be an albino. This will be complemented by facilities where tourists can watch local and migratory birds flying to and from the swamp.

"With the bird-watching center, tourists can opt not to go to the Candaba swamp and spend more time in Hilaga's other attractions that would be set up in time for the holidays," Barbers said.

Of course, not going to the swamp would lessen the chances of exposure to the bird flu virus, he added. The Candaba swamp is one of the 20 bird flu "hotspots" in the country that are being monitored by health authorities because many migratory birds stop over or settle there.

The wetland, shared by Pampanga and Bulacan provinces, covers 32,000 hectares. It is watered by the Pampanga River and its tributaries. According to the conservation group Haribon Foundation, the Philippines is along the East Asian Flyway, the route of globetrotting birds in the winter months of October up to April.

Jerome Aning

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 23, 2005
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Love the poor in the name of the Covenant

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel this: You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

"You shall not harm the widow or the orphan. If you do harm them and they cry out to me, I will hear them and my anger will blaze and I will kill you with the sword, and your own wives will be widows and your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people who are poor, do not act like a moneylender and do not charge him interest.

"If ever you take a person's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him by sunset, for it is all the covering he has for his body. In what else will he sleep? And when he cries to me I will hear him, for I am full of pity."

2nd Reading: 1st Thessalonians 1:5-10

Faith is contagious

Brothers and sisters, you know how we dealt with you for your sake.

In return, you became followers of us and of the Lord when, on receiving the word, you experienced the joy of the Holy Spirit in the midst of great opposition. And you became a model for the faithful of Macedonia and Achaia, since from you the word of the Lord spread to Macedonia and Achaia, and still farther. The faith you have in God has become news in so many places that we need say no more about it. Others tell of how you responded to us and turned from idols to the Lord. For you serve the living and true God, and you wait for his Son from heaven whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who frees us from impending trial.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Above all: Love

When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. One of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to test him with this question, "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and the most important of the commandments. But after this there is another one very similar to it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments."

Commentary

The year grows short and the questions more direct. Once again they are going at Jesus. He has just silenced the stupid arguments of the Sadducees who did not believe in resurrection or judgment. Now the Pharisees will have another go at Jesus and one approaches with the age-old Jewish question: "Which is the most important commandment in the Law?" Jesus answers with the Shema-which is both a prayer to the holiness of God and the foundational call to the covenant and basis of all the law-to love God with all your mind, heart, soul, and resources. But Jesus adds in the second (like both sides of your hand) to love your neighbor with the same passion and wholeheartedness. Everything in the law, the prophets, the history of faithfulness in the Jewish covenant is based on putting these words into practice and obeying the intent of God that all who are made in his image, live in his image as truthfully as we can. And there is no getting around it-no hedging, no rationalizing. And we—who are we like: the Sadducees playing games with theology; the Pharisees and those using the law to test, trick and make others stumble—or are we with Jesus, intent on the worship of God and the care of human beings?

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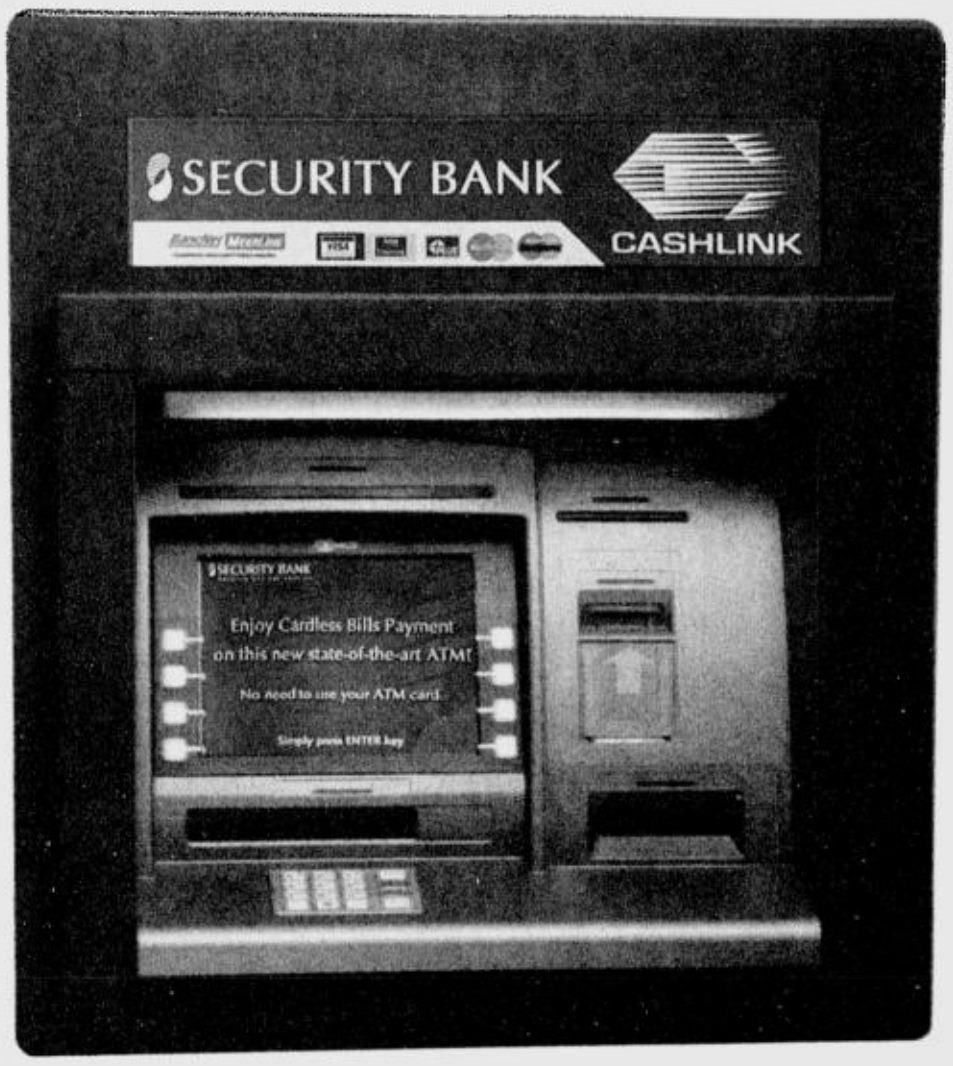

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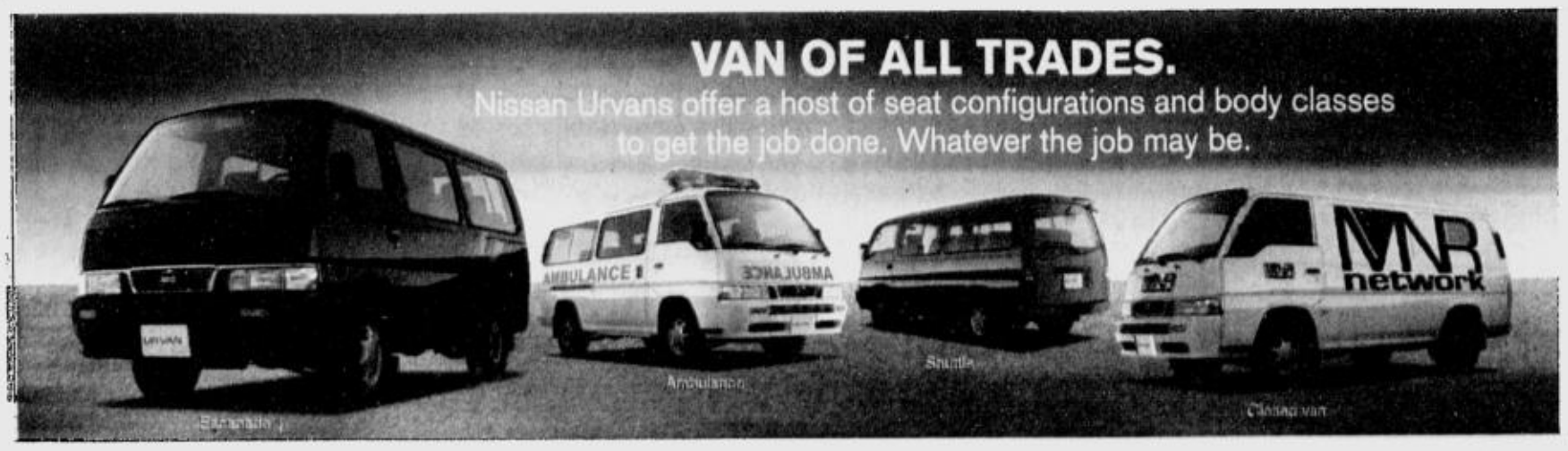


URVAN

NISSAN

SHIFT_the future

MEMENTOS like a photo of the infant Gloria with dad Diosdado Macapagal and one of her favorite dolls are on display at the Macapagal-Macaraeg ancestral home in Timoga, Buruan, Iligan City, where the family spent their summer vacations. EDWIN BACASMAS

Big sister Cielo fears for Gloria's life, would rather see her ousted than dead

From page A1

Diosdado Macapagal's permission to marry Cielo, then 19.

'Little sister'

"I have always looked at her as my little sister. I have never looked at her as [a woman of] power and all," Cielo said of the President.

She said the impeachment case—which the House of Representatives had thrown out—would have given the President the venue to debunk accusations she stole the 2004 election.

"Now the question on her credibility is still there," Cielo said. "The gap has not narrowed."

Cielo denied that her family had benefited from the Arroyo administration.

She said it was then President Joseph Estrada, who was their neighbor in San Juan, who named her a director of the Philippine National Bank and her husband Gene a director of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

But a month after Estrada was ousted in 2001, Gene was removed from UCPB.

Cielo herself would lose her PNB directorship, but would be assigned to the board of advisors by the stockholders.

Separate ways

According to Cielo, she and her sister "never quarrelled" but went their separate ways after her marriage.

When their father became President in 1961, Cielo was living in an apartment in Sampaloc, Manila, and was busy raising her children.

Macapagal ran for reelection but lost in 1966.

Also in that year, Cielo started working at the PNB. She resigned from the bank in 1988 when she ran for vice governor of Pampanga, with then President Corazon Aquino's blessings.

Cielo made an unsuccessful run for the governorship of Pampanga in 1992, and again won as vice governor in 1995.

But her political career would trigger problems with her kid sister's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

In 1998, Ms Arroyo was the running mate of presidential candidate Jose de Venecia, and was pitted against Edgardo Angara, Estrada's running mate.

Cielo said she was then a candidate for governor of Pampanga under the combined Estrada ticket, and was also chair of the alliance comprising the Liberal Party, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Partido ng Masang Pilipino and Nationalist People's Coalition in the province.

In deference to her sister, Cielo said, she did not raise Angara's hand during his proclamation. "I requested if I could just sit beside him, and he understood my situation," she said.

But word later reached the Arroyos that Cielo did not support her sister's candidacy.

"There were so many intrigues that reached Mike," Cielo said.

She said their relationship took a turn for the worse during the Macapagal-Pangan reunion in Malacañang in March 2001.

"Mike snubbed me," Cielo said, adding that she has not set foot inside Malacañang since then.

Sisters' meetings

But the sisters would meet outside the Palace whenever the President's schedule would allow.

On Sept. 4, for example, they both attended the baptismal party for Art Macapagal's grandchild, Nathan Mercado.

"I told her to watch her back, and she said, *'Oo nga* (Yes, I should),' and laughed," Cielo said.

Over lunch at an Indian restaurant in Makati in March, Cielo said her sister suggested that they spend a weekend at The Farm in Lipa, Batangas, with Erlinda de Leon, Ms Arroyo's first cousin and confidential secretary; Mariter, Art's wife, and Tina, Buboy's wife.

Perhaps they could still swing it one of these days, Cielo said.

GMA, critical . . .

From page A1

food, cordial talk, even laughter.

By accounts, this was what happened when Ms Arroyo quietly pulled a coup by dropping in unannounced at a dinner of the Senate's Wednesday Group, composed of Senators Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto and Pia Cayetano.

The INQUIRER learned that she had also met separately with the Monday Group of Senators Mar Roxas, Ramon "Bong" Revilla and Lito Lapid. (Sen. Richard Gordon belongs to this group, but did not attend the meeting.)

The charm offensive was mounted two weeks ago, at the height of the quarrel between Ms Arroyo and the senators over Senate investigations "in aid of destabilization," the "locking up" of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, and the issuance of Executive Order No. 464 banning officials from appearing in congressional inquiries without Ms Arroyo's permission.

Ambush

"We were ambushed [by the President]" was how a member of the Wednesday Group put it.

"She dropped in, we were all surprised, and I assumed this was part of the back-channeling efforts to ease the tension," Senate Majority Leader Pangilinan told the INQUIRER.

The unsuspecting group was joined by its "associate members"—Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor—who had apparently arranged Ms Arroyo's secret arrival at the dinner in a new restaurant in Mandaluyong City.

The President arrived ahead of Joker Arroyo, who is often described as a maverick administration senator because of his acerbic pronouncements about the government.

Before he could react to her presence, the surprise guest had said: "O, Joker, good evening."

"Good evening, ma'am" was the ready reply of the senator, who would later stand before the Supreme Court to defend his blue ribbon committee's detention of Gonzales.

Teasing

Pangilinan, who had asked for Ms Arroyo's resignation, said all the ticklish issues were referred to in jest.

"Tuksuhan lang (Just teasing)," he said.

Another senator said Recto and Defensor made Ms Arroyo laugh with their jokes.

Yet another senator said Cayetano appeared embarrassed when, on her arrival, someone reminded the President that Cayetano had said less than nice things about her.

"She was flushed," the source said of Cayetano, a neophyte senator and sister of leading impeachment mover Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano.

The colleagues did not spare each other.

Someone pointed out that Pangilinan and Recto had signed the Senate resolution challenging EO 464, and that Pangilinan belonged to the Liberal Party of Senate President Franklin Drilon, who had called for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

As for Villar, it was not forgotten that members of his Nacionalista Party, including his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, had signed the impeachment complaint.

Turning serious

The President took this all in by smiling or laughing, according to the senators.

But she turned serious at one point. "Somebody joked about the Senate president, and she said curtly that she didn't want to get into it," Pangilinan said.

Because of his withdrawal of support from the President, Drilon's post as Senate president is deemed in peril. Ms Arroyo reportedly wants either Villar or Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to replace him, but both camps have admitted to not having the numbers as yet to topple Drilon.

There are 15 senators allied with the majority, and eight belong to the opposition. Thirteen senators are needed to elect a Senate president.

No confrontation

Pangilinan said "nothing confrontational" was said over escargot, oysters, lamb, chicken, fusion cuisine and red wine.

"It was not the time to talk about [sensitive issues]. It was just a cordial dinner," he said, adding:

"At least it gave us an idea that she's open to back-channel talks despite the rhetoric and the incendiary remarks. There's still ice that needs thawing, but it was an indication that the [dialogue] should be pursued."

Pangilinan said the dinner would soften the senators in favor of a constructive dialogue, but whether it would result in the Senate's "self-regulation or censorship" with regard to investigations remained to be seen.

"There's nothing to it, just socials. No air was cleared," said another senator who asked not to be named.

In fact, he said, the following day Ms Arroyo attacked the Senate before a business forum and assailed it for detaining Gonzales.

Ms Arroyo publicly thanked Villar for finally sponsoring the antiterrorism bill on the floor. The following week, Villar wrote Drilon asking to be included in the resolution questioning EO 464.

Doing the rounds

But the senators said they knew Ms Arroyo was "doing the rounds" of administration allies.

Gordon said he was invited to have dinner with the President along with his group but he did not go.

He said he wanted to first see the President show her "sincerity and candor" by sitting down with Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to iron out the kinks in the Palace-Congress relationship.

UN agency turns to Pinoy music to fight poverty

From page A1

the comic Ai Ai de las Alas, could help put you in the mood to support these noble causes.

The UN office in Manila on Friday launched a compact disc featuring original Filipino compositions designed to popularize the MDGs—the UN's 8-point mission to significantly reduce global poverty by 2015.

The MDG album, titled "Tayo Tayo rin sa 2015 (No One Else But Us in 2015)," contains tracks conveying each of the eight targets. Lending their voices to the project were A-list performers in the local music industry, who did the recording sessions for free.

The album has Gary V. leading off as the ambassador for Goal No. 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, exhorting all to work "For a Better Life."

"Do you ever wonder why/ I'm out on the streets/ while you're in a car on your way to school?" asks child singer Julia Abueva in "Bata Pa Ako (I'm Still a Child)."

She speaks for the target beneficiaries of Goal No. 2: Achieve universal primary education.

Salonga, along with Kuh Ledesma, Pops Fernandez, Sarah Geronimo and Bayang Barrios, asserts women empowerment in "Babae," which covers Goal No. 3: Promote gender equality.

Cuneta does a lambent number in the persona of a mother whose small child died as a victim of poverty.

"If only the world cares / If only love was felt," she yearns in "Kung Sana (If Only)," which dramatizes Goal No. 4: Reduce child mortality.

De las Alas gives a novelty-song approach to expressing the joys—and demands—of a healthy pregnancy, serving as spokesperson for Goal No. 5: Improve maternal health.

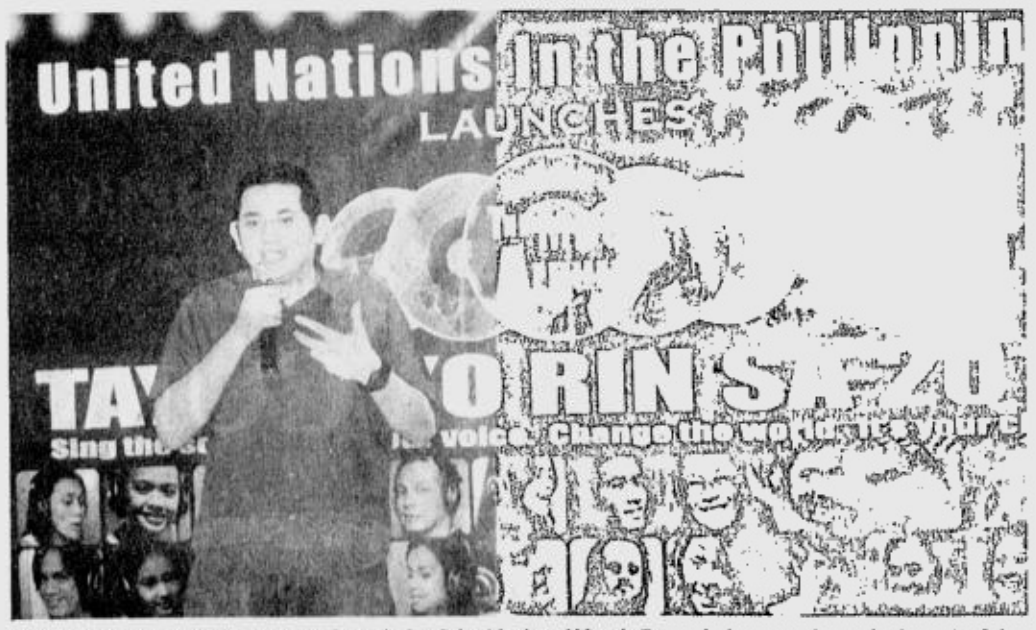
In "Sa Sinapupunan Ko (In My Womb)," her growing tummy makes her feel "more beautiful, like a goddess."

Those who suffer

Playing the role of a person suffering from a dreaded disease, rising star Kitchie Nadal speaks of the pain of isolation in "Kalinga (Care)," in which she promotes Goal No. 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Reggae men Spy and Papa Dom warn against irresponsible mining, overfishing, deforestation and wasteful lifestyles in "Tuloy Tuloy (On and On)," which tackles Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

And Goal No. 8—develop a global partnership for development—makes for an ensemble tune featuring the above-mentioned artists plus the APO Hiking Society, Martin Nievera, Joey Generoso of the Side A Band, Aiza Seguerra, Freddie Aguilar, Janno Gibbs, Joey Ayala, Jaya, Rivermaya and Christian Bautista.



SAY IT WITH A SONG. Bam Aquino, chair of the National Youth Commission, speaks at the launch of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) album, "Tayo Tayo Rin sa 2015," which contains songs representing MDG's eight poverty reduction objectives. ERIK ARAZAS

For free

Despite the all-star cast and the year-long effort to compose and compile the songs, the MDG Album is surprisingly not for sale: The first 5,000 copies are to be distributed for free, according to Ma. Rosanna Senga, the main coordinator for the project.

The songs will also be available soon for "free downloading" from the UN-Philippines website www.un.org.ph, she said.

An agreement has also been reached with the Kapisanan ng Mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas to give the songs ample airtime on FM and AM stations, Senga told the INQUIRER at Friday's launch at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City.

Unfortunately, she said, the UN official who should get the main credit was no longer in town to see the MDG album come into being.

Landey's brainchild

She was referring to her former boss, Deborah Landey, the former UN Resident Coordinator in Manila, who came up with the idea of using music as a vehicle to spread MDG awareness among Filipinos.

Her medium of choice was not surprising since, Senga smiled, Landey was easily fascinated by the Filipinos' love of singing, which she took note of during her 20-month stint in the country.

"She loved to sing in videokes when she was here that we even taught her dance steps for (catchy Pinoy tunes) like Ocho-Ocho or Bulaklak," Senga recalled. "This project was her brainchild."

Landey, a Canadian national, left Manila for a new post in Geneva last July 18. She was replaced by Dr. Zahidul Huque.

The song is the message

"The MDGs can be technical at times," Huque said at the launch. "But ultimately they are about people—the farmer tending his crops, people living in HIV/AIDS; the factory worker in unsafe conditions toiling for a pittance; the homeless child left to dubious enticements and certain perils of the street."

But through the songs in the album, the UN official said, "the message of working together toward poverty eradication is sure to reach and encourage every Filipino to do their part."

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US seeks action vs Syria

UN to discuss options after Hariri slay report

UNITED NATIONS—THE UNITED STATES LED CALLS FRIDAY FOR action against Syria after a UN investigator implicated top Syrian officials in the assassination of former Lebanese Premier Rafiq Hariri.

The report by UN investigator Detlev Mehlis is to be discussed by the UN Security Council in New York on Tuesday when possible new moves could be discussed.

Syria has denied involvement in the killing.

US President George W. Bush called the report "deeply disturbing" and said the United States would seek a meeting of the UN Security Council "as quickly as possible to deal with this very serious matter."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, meanwhile, said: "This is a very serious matter—that you have Syrian involvement in the assassination of the former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri."

"There will have to be some way to ensure accountability for what has already been found here," she said in a joint press conference with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in Birmingham, Alabama.

The chief US diplomat also noted that the report shows "clear indications that the Syrian government had not been cooperating" with the investigation into the Beirut bomb blast in February that killed Hariri and 20 other people.

Straw, on a tour of Rice's southern home state, said Britain fully backed the US position on the report's findings.

"I obviously strongly agree with that," Straw said of Rice's remarks, adding that a Security Council meeting on the matter "should take place as soon as possible."

The British secretary cautioned, however, that it was unclear at this point what the consequences could be for Syria.

"We can't anticipate exactly how a discussion of a resolution is going to come out, but we will be working very hard with France and other key partners to secure the best result," he stressed.

The Mehlis report, which was released Thursday, cited "converging evidence" of Syrian and Lebanese involvement and accused Damascus of blocking and misleading the investigation. *AFP*

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Wilma hits Mexico, heads for Florida

KEY WEST, FLORIda—Residents began fleeing the Florida Keys and parts of the mainland as Hurricane Wilma plodded toward Florida, its slower-than-expected path prolonging the anxious wait for a fierce storm that could hit the state Monday.

The Category 4 hurricane earlier had been expected to strike somewhere on Florida's west coast this weekend. Its erratic movement frustrated residents already worried about what would be the eighth hurricane to hit or pass near the state since August 2004.

At 2 a.m. EDT (2 p.m. in Manila) on Saturday, the hurricane's winds were about 217 kph—down slightly from 225 kph hours earlier—as the storm made landfall on the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico. Wilma was about 725 km southwest of Florida's southwest coast and moving north-northwest at about 5 kph and is expected to reach Florida Monday, the hurricane center said.

Wilma will likely linger over the Yucatan for a few days, which should weaken the hurricane's top sustained winds to 209 kph or lower.

"That would obviously be terrible news for Mexico, but for the United States, it means that we'll have a weaker hurricane coming out into the Gulf of Mexico," said Max Mayfield, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami. *AP*

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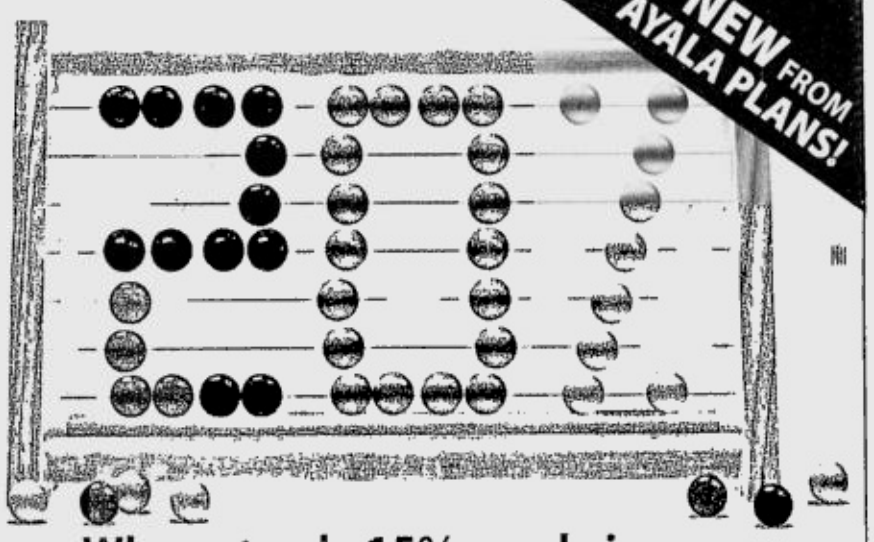

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Bird flu found in UK, Croatia, spreads in Russia

LONDON—A PARROT IMPORTED FROM Latin America has become the first bird to die of avian flu in Britain, bringing the danger of the deadly virus much further west across the European Union as the global battle against the disease continued on Saturday.

Meanwhile yet another avian flu outbreak was reported in Russia, this time in the southern Urals region of Chelyabinsk, and among swans at a Croatian lake.

Officials confirmed cases of the virus found in the parrot from Surinam, which died in British quarantine.

The parrot tested positive for the H5 strain of the bird flu virus. It arrived in Britain from South America last month and had been held with a consignment of birds from Taiwan, Britain's agriculture ministry said.

The chief veterinary officer declined to speculate whether it had the lethal H5N1 strain, which has spread to Romania and Turkey.

In Moscow, the emergencies ministry said 31 birds in Sunaly village in the Chelyabinsk region had died, and in another six cases the diagnosis had been confirmed.

A Russian agriculture ministry official said Friday the risk of the lethal strain occurring in Moscow or surrounding area was minimal, despite an outbreak in Tula, 300 km south of Moscow.

Russian veterinary services said Friday they suspected that the bird flu virus had now spread to 24 areas, including 20 in the Novosibirsk region of Siberia, three in the Kurgan region one in the southern region of Stavropol.

The Tula village of Yandovka, where the lethal H5N1 strain of the virus which has killed 61 people in Southeast Asia since 2003 was found, has been quarantined for three weeks with all poultry there being killed and burned.

Meanwhile neighboring Ukraine slapped a six-month ban on poultry imports.

Croatia said further tests were needed to determine if the virus detected in the dead swans was the H5N1 strain, feared to be the precursor of a human pandemic, or more widespread form of epidemic, that could kill millions.

The six swans were found in the lake at Zdenci in eastern Croatia, one of 20 sites Croatian veterinary services have put under increased surveillance as part of a huge operation to take samples from wild birds.

The French agency for food safety AFSSA recommended increased scrutiny of wildlife, but stopped short of proposing poultry be confined.

The United Nations' bird flu envoy flew into China Friday where more than 91,000 birds have been destroyed to stamp out a new outbreak.

"The international community needs to cooperate fully to protect the health of the world's people," Chinese Health Minister Gao Qiang told UN envoy David Nabarro.

In Thailand, doctors reported the seven-year-old son of a Thai farmer who died of bird flu had also contracted the disease, but they said the virus had not mutated and still cannot pass easily among humans.

The farmer—the 61st human victim of the virus worldwide since late 2003—died after slaughtering and eating a sick chicken.

"In this case the boy may have contracted the disease from the area where the chicken was dying. The boy had close contact with the virus (from being around sick chickens) and possibly from handling the birds' excrement," Siriraj Hospital director Prasit Watanapa said.

In Romania, officials said a suspected new case of bird flu had been detected in the northeast only hours after assurances that the outbreak of the deadly H5N1 virus had been contained to two southeastern locations.

The World Health Organization (WHO) warned against "scaremongering" but it also said each additional human case was making it easier to develop human-to-human transmission of the disease. *AFP*

US tycoon charged in Iraq oil scandal

NEW YORK—US prosecutors have charged a Texas oil tycoon and two Swiss executives and their companies with paying secret kickbacks to Iraq in the UN oil-for-food program.

Tycoon Oscar Wyatt, the former Coastal Corp. chair, was arrested in Houston, Texas, on Friday, prosecutors said, becoming one of the highest profile figures ensnared so far in the scandal. The two Swiss nationals are being sought for extradition.

The US Attorney for the Southern District of New York charged Wyatt along with Catalina del Socorro Miguel Fuentes, alias Cathy Miguel, and Mohammed Saidji. All three face up to 62 years in prison and heavy fines if convicted.

"Mr. Wyatt has violated no laws and will vigorously defend against these charges," said Wyatt's lawyer Carl Parker in Houston.

Three companies were also charged, including the Cyprus-based oil trading companies Nafta Petroleum Company Ltd. and Mednafta Trading Company Ltd., collectively known as the Wyatt Foreign Companies.

Those firms were operated by Miguel and Saidji in close consultation with Wyatt, the statement said.

Also charged was Sarenco, a Swiss consulting firm operated by Miguel and Saidji, prosecutors said in the statement.

"Wyatt, Miguel and Saidji obtained oil under the United Nations' oil-for-food program by paying millions of dollars in secret kickbacks to Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. These kickbacks were allegedly paid to the government of Iraq for oil allocated by the Saddam Hussein regime to the Wyatt Foreign Companies and the Coastal Corporation," prosecutors said.

Specifically they allege that Wyatt, Miguel and Saidji directed millions of dollars in illegal kickbacks to Saddam's government by depositing cash into a Jordanian bank account.

Wyatt also lobbied the United Nations to set an official selling price that would allow recipients of the oil to pay the kickbacks and still profit, the statement said. *Reuters*

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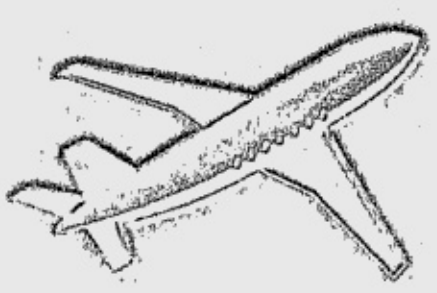

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For details on how to claim the prizes, winners must wait for the notification letter which shall be sent by Energizer Philippines, Inc.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3835, Series of 2005.

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PAKISTANI quake survivors at a refugee camp in the devastated area of Balakot, Oct. 21. With nearly 50,000 dead and 3.3 million people left homeless in the bitter cold in impoverished northern Pakistan and Kashmir, the 7.6-magnitude temblor is considered the area's worst disaster. AFP

Untold numbers still cut off two weeks after quake

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—The engineering battalion promised by Nato to help reach untold numbers of quake survivors in the rugged hills of northern Pakistan cannot arrive soon enough, an international aid official said on Saturday.

"At the moment, the emphasis is on the need for road engineers. If we can open the roads, that would solve everything," World Food Program spokesperson Mia Turner said.

"We're thinking more than 2,000 villages have to be reached and they have to be reached by roads," she said two weeks after the shattering earthquake killed more than 50,000 people and wrecked the few roads which wound high into the hills.

"If these people were connected, we wouldn't be carrying stuff up and down mountains on mules," she said as more mule trains set off up into the hills from the destroyed Pakistani Kashmir capital of Muzaffarabad.

They are laden with food and, most crucially, tents in hopes of getting people under shelter before the harsh Himalayan winter descends in just a few weeks.

More than 74,000 people are known to have been injured and opening the roads would also allow the many, many more in cut-off villages to get medical treatment without which they face death.

The helicopter aid fleet, fewer than 100, cannot deliver enough or reach everywhere and pilots report villagers waving red or orange flags to signal they needed help, Turner said.

Some were even trying to clear areas for helipads and marking them with an H, the international symbol for such landing spots.

The Pakistani Army is working around the clock to open roads broken, covered by landslides or swept away by the Oct. 8 quake in Pakistani Kashmir and adjoining North West Frontier Province.

Lt. Gen. Salahuddin Satti said he hoped the road up Pakistani Kashmir's Jhelum valley would be reopened in a week, but it would take six weeks for the nearby Neelum valley.

Hopes of a massive airlift to bring survivors to safety were dashed on Friday when Nato turned down a United Nations appeal.

The US-dominated military alliance said it would send up to 1,000 troops to help, but would not stage an airlift to rescue survivors on the scale of the 1948-49 Berlin operation for the beleaguered people of Soviet-blockaded West Berlin.

"This is the first time Nato has done something like this on this scale," Nato Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said after the alliance agreed to the deployment.

Aside from a battalion of Spanish, Polish and Italian construction engineers, Nato will send a multinational medical unit to back up UN efforts and a water-purification team.

The WFP's Turner welcomed the decision. "Right now, there's a feeling we need all the help we can get. We need whatever they are providing and more," she said, echoing other aid officials who complain the world is not doing enough to help.

But Nato will send only a few more helicopters to join the 40 that members of the alliance have sent.

"Nato is not a humanitarian organization. Nato is playing its role within the framework of what it is," De Hoop Scheffer said.

Helicopters are the only means of getting quickly deep into the hills. The nearest are in India, where the quake killed 1,300 people on its side of Kashmir, but it has fought two of its three wars with Pakistan over the region, which both claim.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf told India he would accept helicopters, but only if they came without crews given the enormous political sensitivity. India said no.

Musharraf told the BBC he was ready to accept all other help, and talks had to be held with India on how the de facto border dividing Kashmir could be opened for the benefit of survivors.

But he also expressed disappointment that the world had not come forward with pledges of money to rebuild the shattered region, where the quake wiped out entire towns and villages.

"I know we have been donated about $620 million or something, which is totally inadequate," he said. The cost should be more than $5 billion, he added. *Reuters*

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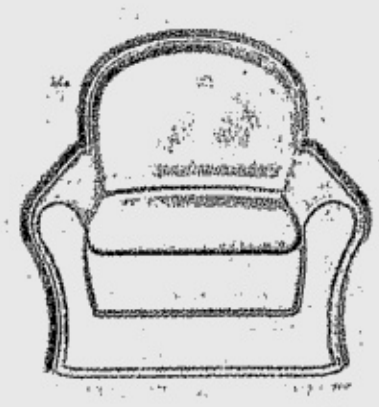

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Uphill climb

THE RACE TO REPLACE OMBUDSMAN SIMEON Marcelo is on. According to the Judicial and Bar Council, 10 veteran lawyers have been nominated to fill one of the most powerful positions in government. But the JBC only proposes; it is the President who disposes.

Will President Macapagal-Arroyo take this second opportunity to appoint the country's chief graftbuster to protect her own post-presidency interests? In other words, will she name her own Aniano Desierto?

EDITORIALS

Marcelo's predecessor in office was a controversial Ombudsman. Desierto did not see the conviction of corrupt public officials as his main responsibility; instead, the mere filing of cases sufficed for him (perhaps he believed in their deterrent effect). He was also perceived as beholden to President Fidel Ramos, the man who put him in office.

When Ms Arroyo appointed Marcelo, then the solicitor general, to replace Desierto, many sectors voiced their reservations about the appointment. For one thing, Marcelo made his legal reputation as a member of the law firm closely identified with the President and the First Gentleman. For another, his government experience was slight at best.

But Marcelo quickly proved to be one of the President's best appointments. He revitalized the Ombudsman's office, raising its conviction rate dramatically and, as a direct consequence, its credibility among its many stakeholders. He pumped in new blood into the office, recruiting idealistic lawyers and fighting bureaucratic battles to win much bigger budgets. He breathed new life into anti-corruption initiatives, working with proven consultants like Tony Kwok of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption and collaborating with investigative journalists.

His sudden resignation, caused by work-induced health problems, has therefore been a temporary setback for the government's anti-corruption campaign. (Kwok, in fact, has said he will continue to consult for the government only if Marcelo's replacement is credible; that is to say, someone he can work with.) Thus, the President's responsibility is clear: Not to make the setback a permanent one.

The challenge for the rest of us is to make our voices heard about the following nominees: Rep. Douglas Cagas, Gualberto dela Llana, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez, Court of Appeals Associate Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando, retired Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Nicodemo Ferrer, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio, Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez, Supreme Court's Deputy Court Administrator Christopher Lock, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta, and Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

According to the JBC, those who object to any of the nominees have only until Nov. 30 to make their objections known. After that, it's up to the President and her conscience.

Slippery slope

A WEEK IS indeed a very long time in politics. Two Fridays ago, Sen. Jamby Madrigal found herself lifted, on a tide of cannon-borne water, to the moral high ground. Since then, however, she has slipped back to earth, where the rest of us (to borrow the words of St. Paul) live and move and have our being.

How does one lose moral ascendancy? First, and in contravention of the law, you bring an armed bodyguard with you to a mass protest action. Perhaps, you feel the need to be protected against the hoi polloi; perhaps, old (and old-rich) habits are just hard to break.

Then you make a spectacle of yourself, surprising a police commander with a sudden attack of eyebrow-raising humor. To wit: You are the father of these policemen, I am the mother, so let's get married. This joke does not work on so many levels, it's hard to know where to start. But as an attempt to protect one's bodyguard, it is not very well disguised.

Lastly, you display the bruise on your leg for the world to see; you roll up your pants, deposit your leg on a table, and look like the eager victim. In other words, you talk about your war wounds. These, however, do not really amount to much: other women and, perhaps, even some men with equally delicate skin will show a bruise if they so much as slip on the stairs. That an incumbent senator suffered a bruise because of the "wet" dispersal on Oct. 14 is of no moment; instead of putting on a show, Madrigal could have simply presented other victims—the ones who got it bad.

Is GMA the State?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING THREATening noises about the takeover of certain public utilities because of what President Macapagal-Arroyo calls a state of emergency. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez says this is possible under Art. XII, Sec. 17, which provides that "in times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operations of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

Secretary Gonzalez says she can do this, and Fr. Joaquin Bernas agreed in his column last Monday. They both say that GMA can discharge this power without the necessity of congressional authorization unlike the grant of emergency powers under Art. VI, Sec. 23(2) which says that "in times of war or other national emergency, the Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy. Unless sooner withdrawn by resolution of the Congress, such powers shall cease upon the next adjournment thereof."

The first quoted provision did not appear in the Commonwealth Constitution but was introduced in the Marcos-dictated Constitution of 1973 during martial law. That infamous document was rejected by the Freedom Constitution of 1986 that called for the eradication of "unjust and oppressive structures and all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime." Yet, despite that mandate, the said provision was retained in the Constitution of 1987. Father Bernas, who was a member of the Constitutional Commission of 1986, says that "how we allowed it to stay in the 1987 Constitution, I must admit, I cannot explain . . . In fact, I do not recall anybody objecting to it." He adds: "We must have been dozing when it slipped through."

I personally have no objection to the controversial provision, provided it is properly understood. It is in its interpretation that I differ with Secretary Gonzalez and Father Bernas. Both of them say that the power allowed by the provision is vested solely in the President independently of legislative permission or even prohibition. I disagree. I believe that like the emergency powers provided for under Art. VI, Sec. 23(2), the power to take over public utilities and privately-owned businesses affected with public interest can be exercised only by authority of a valid law.

President Arroyo's defenders say that the subject provision should be interpreted in light of the conditions that prompted its adoption in 1973. The original meaning given to it during the despotism should be followed now in the application of the borrowed rule. Thus, as it was Marcos who by himself alone took over public utilities during his dictatorship and all his acts were recognized by his Constitution as part of the law of the land, a similar singular power should be deemed vested in President Arroyo. Even without congressional permission, its exercise by her should also be considered "valid, legal, binding and effective" even if we are no longer under martial law.

What is unmistakably obvious except to those who will not see is that when the 1973 Constitution said that the State could take over public utilities and private businesses affected with public interest, it was referring to Marcos. The State was Marcos. He was the absolute ruler of this captive land and was subject to no limitation under the Constitution that he himself dictated and enforced. His acts, no matter how outrageous, were part of the law of the land that the then cowardly Supreme Court dutifully "legitimized."

Marcos was the State as long as his evil regime prospered, but it ended when he fell. And his villainy cannot—and should not—be resurrected under the present Constitution.

It is incredible that some people would give to the Constitution of 1987 the same meaning given by Marcos and his satraps to the Constitution of 1973. I cannot understand why they would accord to the President under the 1987 Constitution the same and undiminished absolute power the tyrant assumed under the Constitution of 1973.

Does the present charter that was supposed to eradicate all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime, also authorize the President to commit the abuses flagrantly committed by Marcos during his despotism? Shall we accept that in the exercise of a power essentially legislative, the President can act alone—as Marcos could—without the authority and limitation of a valid law? Shall we allow this atrocity to continue because the Constitutional Commission of 1986 made a mistake?

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is not the State. Let's not constitutionalize her present arrogance and make her another Marcos.

Comfort zones

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

AFTER THE 9/11 INCIDENT, AN AMERICAN general was asked if there was room for forgiveness for the terrorists. His answer was "I believe that forgiving them is God's prerogative, our job is to arrange their meeting with God."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt 22, 34-40), Jesus sets forth the greatest of all the commandments:

Love of God with all of one's heart, soul and mind; and love of neighbor as oneself. Easier said than done. Why? Because here, Jesus relegates the self to last place. We, on the other hand, tend to put the self first. From the human point of view that seems to be the most natural and logical way of things. Jesus, however, sees it differently. There will be no real happiness for us unless God and neighbor come before self. "The one who loses his life will find it."

* * *

We all have our comfort zones which we want to keep, preserve and maintain, and even prolong and broaden. When love comes knocking at our doors, our tendency is to often shut it off. And we are good at making alibis for doing this. Love has reasons which reason itself does not know. When will you go beyond your rationalizations and endless computations, and just simply start loving without limits and conditions? Stupid? Crazy? Well, one must be really a little stupid and crazy when the topic is love, and really stupid and crazy when one loves.

* * *

Going through the deserts of Egypt on our way to the Holy Land, this question cropped up in my mind: Why did God make deserts? What's the use of those vast tracts of arid land? In the same way, we must have often asked God why He lets us pass through harsh deserts in this life. I really have no answers except that, perhaps, in the desert, one becomes more trusting and more in tune with God. Deprived of comfort zones, one can't help but reach out, and hold on to the One who disturbs and challenges comfort zones.

* * *

Having spent one sleepless night in the desert, I had this other question: Why did God make mosquitoes? What's the use of those insects that are such a relentless nuisance; they know exactly to strike, just when one is about to fall asleep? In the same way, we must have often asked God why there are mosquitoes in our lives, people who hurt us and who make life unhappy for us. I really have no answers except that mosquitoes keep us awake and disturb our comfort zones to help us love more and become better persons.

* * *

If deserts make life hard for us, and if mosquitoes disturb us, then let us resolve not to become desert makers or mosquitoes to other people. Are you a desert maker, are you a mosquito to other people? If your answer is in the affirmative, that is because you put your love of self above your love of God and love of neighbor.

* * *

I asked my brother Manong Oscar what it is like to go out into the streets and be hit by water cannons. His response: "OK *lang* Father Jerry. As long as you do what you really believe in, and as long as you do your mission for God and for this our nation, then you do not mind discomfort, the pains, the hurts and the humiliation. Those people on the streets who are manhandled are more free than those who are ordered to manhandle them and those that ordered them." If until now you are still not disturbed by the situation, and still are not searching for the truth, then something is awfully wrong.

* * *

On a personal note, I would just like to thank God for 25 years in the priesthood this coming Oct. 25. Unworthy as I am, mistakes and shortcomings notwithstanding, the gift and responsibility of priesthood have by far been the greatest blessing and challenge in my life. Priesthood has been a constant leaving of home and going beyond comfort zones, all because of a God who called me for a mission. No regrets. Just grateful for all that has been and for all that will be.

* * *

Inviting you to the book launching of "Inquirer Moments (Cycle B)," a collection of my Sunday columns in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, on Oct. 29, 2005 at the Meralco Theater, to coincide with our 25th Sacerdotal anniversary. Mass is at 5 p.m., to be followed by the concert and book launching. Tickets are available at the Christ The King Seminary, for the benefit of our Filipino SVD missionaries abroad. For particulars, please call 721-7457 or 414-7044.

* * *

By the way, don't forget that today is World Mission Sunday. Please continue to pray for our missionaries. Thanks also for your help and encouragement as we continue our efforts to support our Filipino missionaries.

* * *

You are invited to attend the next scheduled psycho-spiritual retreat "Healing & Understanding Transgenerational Patterns through Psychogenetics & Gestalt Therapy in the Light of the Gospel" on Oct. 29-30, Nov. 12-13, 26-27 and Dec. 12-13. Please contact Fr. Ed Fugoso, SVD at 0917-5414330 or send an e-mail to edfugoso2002@yahoo.com

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that true loving is constant leaving of my comfort zones. Amen.

'The Ships with the BIG MOUTH'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST THURSDAY, OCT. 20, WAS THE 61ST ANniversary of the Leyte landing. Students of history are now aware that the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation was at one time not part of the grand strategy of Allied forces in the Pacific. Admiral Ernest King, representing the US Navy, was in favor of bypassing the Philippines and leapfrogging further north to Formosa in the drive to reach the Japanese mainland. Only the objections of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who wanted to redeem his "I shall return" pledge when he left Corregidor during the dark days of May 1942, kept the Philippines on America's radar screen. As a result, in September 1944, Allied leaders agreed on a timetable of Dec. 20 for the Leyte invasion. However, a week later, on the basis of favorable intelligence reports, the Joint Chiefs of Staff decided to move the assault on Leyte two months ahead of schedule. In hindsight, perhaps it would have been better for the Philippines if it had been bypassed. We would have been spared the deadly and devastating battle for the Liberation of Manila, which resulted in the horrible deaths of so many civilians and non-combatants at the hands of suicidal Japanese marines who stayed behind to defend the city. Manila would not have suffered so much physical destruction from both the defenders and the liberating forces.

A few days after the Leyte landing, the Battle for Leyte Gulf was fought—an action considered by many historians as the greatest naval battle of World War II, and by some as history's greatest naval engagement. C. V. Woodward, who wrote the first full account of the battle, said, "Rarely in all naval history has a power staked so much on one operation as the Japanese did at Leyte Gulf and rarely has any power suffered such an overwhelming defeat." For the Japanese, the loss at Leyte meant the loss of the Philippines and virtually doomed their chances of victory in the war.

* * *

Most narratives of naval operations involve the role of battleships, cruisers, aircraft carriers, and destroyers. There is little that has been written about what historians Norman Polmar and Thomas B. Allen in their book "World War II, America at War," considered as "probably the most important ship in the Allied war effort."

Homer Haswell, who served as an ensign during World War II, has just published a book, "LSTs: The Ships with the BIG MOUTH." It is about Landing Ship Tank (LST) 698, a vessel on which he served as assistant navigator from June 1944 up to November 1945. Haswell participated in both the Leyte and Lingayen landings.

* * *

After Pearl Harbor, military experts determined that the Pacific War would be like no other conflict before. Most of the islands in the area had no docks. The need was for a special kind of ship that could bring the troops and their equipment right up to the beaches. The US Navy's Bureau of Ships undertook to create such a vessel and John C. Niedermair is credited for its actual design.

The LST was 328 feet long with a 50-foot beam. It had a shallow draft permitting a much closer approach to any beach, and its structural arrangements provided unusual strength and buoyancy. An outstanding design characteristic was a cavernous tank deck beneath the main deck, which was capable of taking on 20 tanks or 1,900 tons of any combination of vehicles and cargo. After the LST hit the beach, its bow doors opened and a huge ramp dropped down unto the shore.

Historian Samuel Morison, in his 15-volume history of US Naval Operations in World War II, reported that the LSTs were the "handymen of the Navy." The arrival of the LSTs in 1943 dramatically changed the complexion of fighting in the Pacific and made the LST "the backbone of the amphibious forces." By the end of the conflict, 1,051 had been built. Somehow, I was reminded of the Douglas C-47 which was the workhorse of the Air Force. The first prototype came out in 1935, but actual production started only in 1942. While fighter and bomber aircraft were highlighted in most air operations, the Gooney Bird as the C-47 was dubbed, was better known and was the longest serving aircraft in aviation history.

* * *

Homer Haswell, a journalism graduate from the University of Wisconsin, was commissioned in 1944 and ordered to report to LST 698 in New Orleans. On Oct. 20, 1944, LST 698 was one of 738 ships that participated in the Leyte landing. In the third wave, it disgorged tanks and troops of the 96th Infantry Division and by midnight, 132,000 men and more than 200,000 tons of supplies and equipment had been landed on the island of Leyte.

The next big step in the war was the amphibious assault on Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan. LST 698 was part of Task Group 77 with Army engineers on board. They would be responsible for building roads and erecting bridges on Luzon to speed the advance of troops to Manila. The tank deck carried Bailey bridges that could easily be assembled over rivers for the troops.

In a letter to his wife Fran, Haswell wrote that he had now been in two invasions and had scarcely seen the enemy: "An LST doesn't go looking for trouble. It moves slowly to its destination. When it's unloaded, it clears out. So it's a long way from the enemy...as long as I've got to be here, it might as well be on an LST."

Tomorrow, Oct. 24, Homer and Fran Haswell mark their 63rd wedding anniversary. They have four children, William, Ann Marinello, Clayton (regional director for Associated Press in San Francisco), and James. Carmela Farolan, a recent graduate of Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, contributed her technological and editing skills in putting this book together. Our congratulations to all!

When the silent speak

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

"We face political battle. Good. The time is ripe. The dictator is heady, like a condescending demi-god who pretends confidence on the outside. The people are restive. And the opposition is ready."—**Teofisto Guingona Jr., 1985**

I WAS WATCHING TV WHEN FORMER VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona was blasted by a water cannon during a prayer rally last Friday. The same gentleman, who was thrown in jail in 1972 for openly opposing the Marcos regime, stood frail on the front lines, soaked to the skin, barely able to stand and yet with eyes fierce enough to make a snarling pit bull quail.

Guingona is 77 years old, a few years younger than my grandfather. He was caught unawares by the torrent of water that almost brought Fr. Robert Reyes to his knees. Whether or not he and company had a permit, and whether or not they went beyond the limits of the allowed route, one thing was clear—the degree of force used on them was neither calibrated nor constitutional.

I'm outraged, I'm disillusioned, and I'm one cannon blast away from marching in the streets.

When the Aquino administration scrapped laws and edicts of the Marcos regime, it decided to preserve a particular law. That law is outstanding in its specificity regarding the protection of human rights. BP 880, The Public Assembly Act of 1985, is an "act ensuring the free exercise by the people of their right peaceably to assemble and petition the government."

This law makes very clear the priority of the state (even one under a dictator): the protection of the freedom to speak.

This is the same law that the current administration is using to justify its acts of repression. The CPR (calibrated preemptive response) is a new catchphrase some public relations genius in government probably came up with to replace the term "repression." Sort of saying "we should see other people" instead of "let's break up." It's the same banana, but packaged in a Rustan's box instead of a brown paper bag.

Nobody really knows what the CPR is, only its results. What we know is this: ever since CPR came around, actions that would never have been condoned before are now being hailed and upheld by this government. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez—who, I like to think, is the opposition's undercover agent—claimed that the CPR is simply the law in BP 880. Police Director General Arturo Lomibao was more explicit. The CPR, he said, is the "application of the correct meaning of maximum tolerance as provided for in Batas Pambansa 880."

If they meant the same thing, why the new catchword? BP 880 states that maximum tolerance "means the highest degree of restraint that the military, police and other peacekeeping authorities shall observe during a public assembly or in the dispersal." If it meant the same thing, then why were the police so gung-ho with their truncheons and water cannons? The law states explicitly: tear gas, smoke grenades, water cannons, or similar anti-riot device cannot be used unless there is "actual violence or serious threats of violence, or deliberate destruction of property."

Unless Guingona and company had M16s and kung fu black belts under their dripping polo shirts, I seriously doubt they were a clear and present danger to the state. In a democracy, the state can protect itself against rebellion. But when people raise their placards against the President, they don't threaten the state. They threaten the security of tenure of the current President. As far as I know, the President and the state are two very different things.

The People Power of 1986 exploded because of Ninoy Aquino's murder and the evident cheating during the snap elections. The Senate vote disallowing the opening of the "second envelope" in the impeachment trial of President Estrada triggered the People Power of 2001, and crammed Edsa with black-clad students.

For such powerful and spontaneous explosion of unity and democracy, we need a catalyst, a smoking gun, a reason to believe, without the shadow of doubt, that our sovereignty is being stolen.

Most students of the University of the Philippines are automatically branded as activists. I am not an activist, and neither are many of us. I like to think that the parliament of the streets is a last recourse, a place of final judgment when all else has failed. When the Garci tapes came out and many clamored for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster and overthrow, I chose to sing the song of every pacifist: "Let's follow the rule of law." I believed it, and I stood by it.

Now the law itself, the one thing that people like me hang on to in the hope of stability, is being twisted according to the needs of one individual. In such a situation, people like us are likely to rebel. And that's what the government should fear.

It's true, BP 880 requires permits for rallies that are to be held in areas that are not designated freedom parks. But the law also states that permits can be denied only when there is "imminent and grave danger of a substantive evil."

Gee, if law enforcers and local executives now consider rerouting traffic a substantive evil, then I worry about our chances when some dictator out there gets the bright idea of invading Manila. A rally of 300 citizens is not going to create that much of a dent in public transportation. But when that rally hits thousands, traffic will be the least of the government's problems.

Freedom of speech is not just a constitutional right. As Mill says, there is no monopoly on truth. Freedom of speech exists because it is conceded that there is no one voice of reason. Even if a person is "wrong," he has the right to say that "wrong"—and only then may everyone, who wants to, rip it apart.

Berger calls demonstrations "protests of innocence." The nature of a demonstration is to provoke violence on itself—to either appeal to the state's democratic conscience (if it exists) or show the cruelty of the state. Last week, cruelty showed at its peak.

The government says the choices are clear: the black and white of freedom of expression versus peace and order. It's not so simple. There is a middle ground between freedom of speech on the one hand, and peace and order on the other. That's why laws exist. But when push comes to shove, I'll take the side of the freedom of speech—even if it's not mine.

When I choose not to rally, it is my right—as much as it is the right of everyone else to speak with a megaphone in Mendiola.

In 1972, when people like Guingona and Benigno Aquino Jr. were rallying people to their side, Marcos declared martial law—and thus began a 14-year saga of his own ruin.

Today's government is afraid. It has a reason to be. If that fear does not translate into respect for the people's rights, the same people who counsel peace now could end up wielding their own truncheons in Mendiola.

And that is when the government should be very, very afraid.

* * *

Send comments to pat.evangelista@gmail.com

Graver threat to the world than terrorism

COMMENTARY

Red Constantino

FOR ALL THE HEATED TALK ABOUT NATIONAL security in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia, what is curiously missing in the discussions is the one issue that may just define the future well-being—or ruin—of the country and the region.

Some call the issue global warming. Scientists refer to it as climate change. It is the greatest threat facing the planet today, and it is only going to get worse unless we solve the problem.

It is impossible to definitively link climate change and any single weather event, including the recent Atlantic hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the devastating typhoons that visited the Philippines this year. Current scientific evidence strongly suggests, however, that hurricanes tend to become more destructive as ocean temperatures rise. The rise in greenhouse gas concentrations will also very likely further increase ocean temperatures.

Dr. Kerry Emanuel, a hurricane expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was unequivocal when he wrote recently, based on his research, that "The large [storm] upswing in the last decade is unprecedented, and probably reflects the effect of global warming."

Although intense discussion currently surrounds the publication of Emanuel's work, in the end, the answer to what has caused recent destructive typhoons is of little practical value. What we need to address is not what caused hurricanes and typhoons but the likelihood that global warming could make hurricanes even worse in the future.

There is no lack of evidence that human-induced climate change is underway. The impacts are being felt from Alaska to Florida to sub-Saharan Africa, India, Southeast Asia, China and the melting Russian tundra.

Up to 64 percent of China's glaciers are projected to disappear by 2050, putting at risk up to a quarter of the country's population who are dependent on the water released from those glaciers, and raising the possibility of future non-petroleum related resource-conflicts.

Very recently, Thailand was caught in the grip of a deadly drought which affected 63 of the country's 76 provinces and cost the government $193.2 million in damages. "One of the main causes of the current prolonged drought [in Thailand] is global warming," said Dr. Kansri Boonpragob, vice chair of the UN-formed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the foremost global authority on the issue. In the Philippines, studies have projected that crop yields can drop as temperature rises. It is a fact that nights in the Philippines are now warmer than they were 50 years ago.

It was determined by an institute that from the 1970s to the present, the global area affected by drought has doubled due to climate change. A study conducted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado found widespread drying over much of the world, including Asia, and identified rising global temperatures as the major factor for increased drought.

Coral bleaching events in Southeast Asia and the Pacific are set to rise in frequency and intensity if greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated. Corals tend to die in great numbers immediately following coral bleaching events.

Considered as one of the most diverse habitats in the marine tropics, the Philippines is home to 488 coral species out of the 500 known coral species worldwide. Over a third of the 2,300 known fish species in the Philippines are reef-associated.

According to the renowned coral reef expert, Dr. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, untrammeled global warming can spell "catastrophe for tropical marine ecosystems everywhere," with bleaching events "very likely" occurring annually within three decades. The period of the 1990s was the warmest in recorded history and 1998 was the hottest year of all. The 1998 episode could become commonplace inside 20 years.

There is more to the current fuel crisis than high oil prices. Since the industrial revolution, massive carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions produced by burning fossil fuels such as coal—the dirtiest fossil fuel—have seriously altered the composition of the planet's atmosphere and trapped the sun's energy, creating increasingly devastating, chaotic weather patterns.

A joint statement, signed by 11 of the most distinguished national science academies, gave unequivocal advice to world leaders in July: "The scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action." Among the nations of Southeast Asia, however, few seem to be listening, the Philippines included.

Less than 0.2 percent of the installed power capacity in the Philippines—around 15,000-MW—comes from new renewable energy sources such as wind power, solar and modern biomass. On the other hand, the Philippines seems bent on constructing and expanding a plague of coal plants all over the country in the next few years. If national security is indeed high on the agenda of the Philippine government, this spectacular imbalance has to change and soon.

There is no denying that countries such as the United States and Australia—world-class polluters both—are responsible for a gargantuan chunk of the problem. But far too easy is it to keep on blaming others for the climate crisis threatening our shores. We, too, must do our share. The self-interest of the Philippines demands it. The abundance of renewable energy resources in the country warrants it. The future of the entire planet requires it.

It is high time for the Philippine government to set clear, time-bound targets if it wants to genuinely secure our nation's security. By the year 2010, 10 percent of our power must come from the sun, the wind and modern biomass.

Red Constantino is regional energy campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

When religious leaders speak

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WHEN THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO SPEAKS, POLITIcians have to listen. Of the country's numerous religious communities, the INC alone commands the kind of organized vote that can make or unmake politicians. To a lesser degree, El Shaddai wields a similar political clout. This is the power of small but tightly organized groups. The Catholic Church is several times bigger but it does not determine the political behavior of its members.

Therefore, when INC's Executive Minister Eraño Manalo and El Shaddai's Bro. Mike Velarde come together to take a position on the political crisis, what they say can shape the manner of its resolution. I do not mean to suggest that they should, but only to describe the political reality in our society—a reality that I hope we may someday transcend. For I fully subscribe to John Dewey's belief that: "Men have never fully used the powers they possess to advance the good in life, because they have waited upon some power external to themselves and to nature to do the work they are responsible for doing."

Ka Erdie and Brother Mike, as they are often called by politicians and legions of followers, have appealed to the nation's leaders "to bring to an end the political bickerings that have been going on for months and have been hurting our nation so much, particularly its economy." They have asked them to focus their efforts on the alleviation of the people's suffering, and to resolve the issues by "peaceful and constitutional means," in such a way as not to "consume the greater part of their time and energy" to the neglect of "the pressing needs of our people."

The statement is either empty rhetoric or a subtle directive to the administration and opposition to find a suitable compromise lest the situation deteriorates to a point which neither one will survive. The call is addressed to politicians; it provides no guidance to ordinary people who may wish to be more than just spectators to outcomes produced by their increasingly worthless leaders.

Ka Erdie and Brother Mike say they are compelled to break their silence on the issues facing the country. It is encouraging that their joint statement does not counsel the public to just move on as if nothing happened. Since a lot of people depend on their moral wisdom, one hopes they may also break their silence on such questions as the following: (1) Are the allegations brought out by the Garci Tapes worth investigating? (2) Is the dismissal of the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo on technical grounds morally defensible? (3) Is it necessary to inquire into widespread allegations of the misuse of public funds in the 2004 elections? (4) Is Ms Arroyo immune from moral accountability for the way she exercises the powers and prerogatives of her office? (5) Do the people have a moral basis to question the right of Ms Arroyo to remain in office and to air their grievances in the streets?

As a secular democrat, I wish that the exercise of one's faith were a purely private and personal matter, and that the guidance of one's religious elders did not extend to one's political behavior. But the contingencies of our people's history and the particularities of our nation's life compel us to take into account religion's role in the shaping of our democracy. Until we can have a fully secular society—a goal that the philosopher Vattimo conceives to be "the paradoxical realization of Being's religious vocation"—our people will turn to their religious leaders for direction in almost every aspect of their lives. This puts leaders like Ka Erdie and Brother Mike, not to mention the Catholic bishops, in a privileged but difficult position to contribute to either the advancement or the retardation of Philippine democracy.

Once they take up this role, there is almost no room for playing it halfway. You either keep completely silent on questions that have a direct political bearing, or you wade into the water with open hearts and state your position as clearly and as unequivocally as possible. The pastoral statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in July unfortunately lent itself to such equivocation when it called for reflection and discernment by the laity while explicitly stating it was not calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation. It is a far cry from the straightforward statement of the De La Salle Brothers, who, early in this crisis, became a source of courage and wisdom. The Jesuit community in the Philippines, through its Commission on the Social Apostolate, has recently come out with what it calls "guidelines in a time of confusion and crisis." It is the clearest statement to be formulated by a religious group.

Its commitment to democracy is sharp. It states a moral position, and does not hesitate to analyze the situation in its light. Without saying explicitly what alternative must be put in place, it shows the way forward. The quest for the truth at all costs, ultimately a moral imperative, runs through the whole document.

Like Brother Mike and Ka Erdie's call, the Jesuit statement champions the basic cause of the poor, but instead of treating this as separate from the current political crisis, it connects the resolution of poverty to the transformation of the corrupt political system that has bred the present crisis. It says: "Indeed, the search for the truth is integrally linked to the fate of the poor. Corruption and dishonesty have made the lot of the poor worse."

To call for an end to bickerings without understanding their causes is to belittle the people's voices against the system. It is to take the side of power.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Flying out of the Air Force

THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE COUNTRY'S ENTIRE FLEET OF F-5S ON OCT. 1 at the Basa Air Base in Pampanga marked the end of an era. The fighter planes, the backbone of the country's air defense system, left the Philippine Air Force (PAF) without a supersonic fighter plane.

Credit goes to the PAF maintenance crew for keeping some of the 37 F-5s flying beyond their 15-year life span. The planes were donated by the United States between 1965 and 1998.

Without enough funds, the Philippines can neither replace the F-5s with new fighter planes nor acquire other aircraft to expand its fleet even as its neighbors acquire state-of-the-art fighter planes. Among the recent additions to the PAF fleet were four Bronco fighter planes. These were donated by Thailand in 2004.

Over the years, the PAF has lost Huey helicopters and Italian-made S-211 trainer jets to crashes, reducing the number of its aircraft to a total of 120 *(See table)*. With more than 2,000 PAF pilots, there are simply not enough aircraft to fly in the Philippine military.

Better pay and benefits are luring scores of PAF pilots to the commercial airline industry. The airlines offer pilots between P60,000 and P180,000 a month. In contrast, the government offers pilots a starting salary of P17,000 a month. The PAF's loss has become the commercial airline industry's gain.

Military pilots joining airlines in droves

By Joselle Badilla

LIKE DOCTORS SEEKING GREENER pastures abroad, more military pilots are joining commercial airlines, according to Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, spokesperson of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

Padilla could not say how many have actually filed their resignations in recent months.

But Major Augusto de la Peña, assistant director of the PAF Public Information Office, said that at least 24 pilot officers assigned to the service's various units had tendered their resignations this year alone.

He said that last year, the figure was 23.

"In fact, some of them are now in various stages of securing clearance or are undergoing training with commercial airlines," another PAF officer said.

In Cebu Pacific, for example, 80 percent of its pilots are former pilot officers, who had served 8 to 10 years in government.

These pilots now earn at least thrice the regular pay they were receiving from the military.

A PAF pilot's starting pay is P17,000 a month while the monthly income of commercial pilots ranges from P60,000 to P80,000 for second and first officers, and as high as P180,000 for captains, depending on length of service.

Better perks

The perks are definitely much better than what the government can offer: medical insurance for them and their dependents; allowances, including gasoline; productivity pay; and free trips here and abroad.

Capt. Willy Rigor, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 1986 and former pilot of the Presidential Security Group, said the main reason he joined Philippine Airlines (PAL) was financial.

"I left the service because I have a growing family and I want to send my kids to the best schools," Rigor said.

He said he gave up "the glamour of having a rank for the future of my family."

It took Rigor a year to get the final approval of his resignation, which he filed in 1996.

While waiting for approval, Rigor spent his remaining leave credits to train with PAL.

"I applied for passes, leave of absence. Others used that to seek jobs outside. That's what pilot officers usually do," he said.

PDI FILE PHOTO

Paper trail

Resigning from the Air Force leaves a long paper trail.

"Initially, there are about 16 documents that one should secure, like basic request, affidavit of nonrevocation order, statement of assets and liabilities, provost marshal," a resigning pilot officer said.

Getting the paper signed is not easy. "Pilots are filing their resignation properly but some unit commanders take their time to sign the resignation papers," he said.

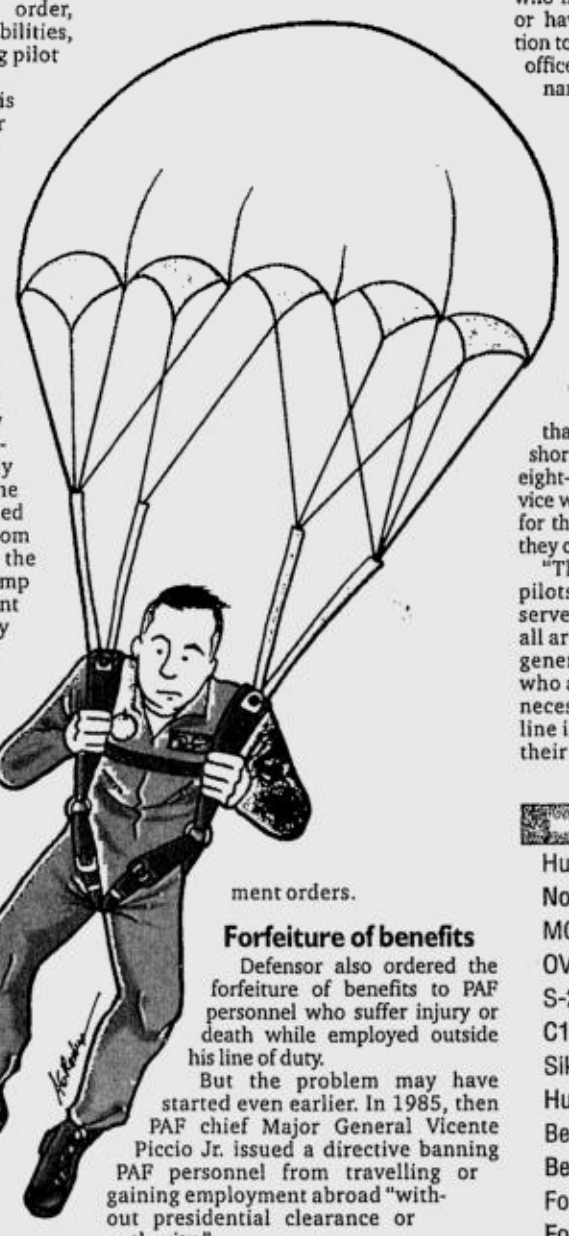
He also revealed that some of the pilots who tendered their resignation were reassigned to other units or were put on AWOL (absent without leave) status, but this was denied by Padilla.

"The moment you file your resignation, it automatically goes to your unit and you have respective clearances to comply [with]. The document goes to the personnel and it will be forwarded to the PAF headquarters. From there, it will be forwarded to the general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo and to the Department of National Defense. Then, they will forward it to Malacañang," he said.

"The fastest would be two to three months," Padilla said.

He said that pilots who signify their intention to resign should sign the certificate of last payment.

"The government has no obligation to pay them while they wait for the processing of their papers," the PAF spokesperson said.



70 leaving

Just how serious are the resignations?

The actual number of pilots who have filed for resignation or have signified their intention to resign is 70, according to officers who asked not to be named.

Five of the 24 pilot officers who resigned this year belong to the PMA Marilag Class of '95, which became famous after some of its members spearheaded the July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

But Padilla said that those who resigned had already served the eight-year mandatory service.

He acknowledged that those who fell short of the mandatory eight-year military service were required to pay for the unexpired part of their contract so they could leave the service.

"They are not that many, but a lot of pilots would like to leave. These people served their eight years and beyond, but all are dependent on job openings in the general aviation area. Some of those who also applied for resignation are not necessarily joining the commercial airline industry. The other reason is to join their spouses who work abroad," Padilla said.

Lack of aircraft

He said the resignations were "not a serious problem of the Air Force."

"The lack of aircraft to fly is," the PAF spokesperson said.

At present, there are 10 pilots for every aircraft, making some pilots unable to fly regularly.

"Pilots who leave the service and join the commercial airline industry are primarily not after the huge pay. They are after the opportunity to fly and serve the people," he said.

A pilot officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "There is nothing to look forward to in the Philippine Air Force."

"I don't have any intention to push through with my military career," he said.

Two pilots said their reason for leaving was the lack of aircraft to fly. As a result, they don't get the 50-percent mandated flying pay.

Padilla said, "The PAF has no right to hold them [pilots] after they have served their contracts."

"A loss to the Air Force is not a loss to the country. The general aviation area gets better skilled people [pilots] serving the populace," he said.

(Joselle Badilla is on the staff of the PDI Mindanao Bureau.)

Moonlighting

By Fe Zamora

BY THE TIME THIS ARTICLE IS published, at least four Air Force pilots will have finished training at a commercial airline flight simulator in Manila.

In another month or so, the batch will leave for Hong Kong for the second phase of the training program.

Within three months from finishing the simulator training, these pilots would be ready to fly an Air Bus or a Boeing 747 either as second officer or first officer, depending on their qualifications. But there's a hitch: they have not totally severed their ties from the Philippine military.

The pilots are either on-leave, or have applied for terminal leave, or are waiting for approval of their resignation, or, in worst cases, on AWOL.

Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes, Philippine Air Force (PAF) chief, said the pilots had violated military rules and regulations.

"If they moonlight in commercial airlines, I will have them recalled. If they do not report to their units, I will have them apprehended," Reyes said.

"It is their privilege to go on terminal leave but there is a provision there that while on leave, they cannot seek employment outside the PAF," he said.

Lured by higher pay, better benefits and a brighter future in commercial airlines, military pilots are flying away from the ill-equipped Air Force in flocks.

"We cannot prevent them because they can also contribute to the development of the airline industry. All I ask is a minimum of three months to process their papers," Reyes said.

President's approval

All military resignations need the approval of the President as commander in chief.

But getting out of the service is not so easy, as the pilots have found out.

A resigning pilot said the Air Force began a clamp down five years ago after a PAF general boarded a PAL plane and found that the pilot was an Air Force officer still on active duty.

There must be some truth to this because on May 22, 2001, then PAF chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor issued a memorandum that barred PAF personnel from accepting employment here or abroad "without orders of separation or retirement from the service."

Defensor's memorandum also ordered personnel who go on leave to file an affidavit stating that they would not seek employment while on leave or while waiting for separation or retirement orders.

Forfeiture of benefits

Defensor also ordered the forfeiture of benefits to PAF personnel who suffer injury or death while employed outside his line of duty.

But the problem may have started even earlier. In 1985, then PAF chief Major General Vicente Piccio Jr. issued a directive banning PAF personnel from travelling or gaining employment abroad "without presidential clearance or authority."

The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, or Republic Act No. 6713, states that "public officials and employees during their incumbency shall not engage in the private practice of their profession unless authorized by the Constitution or law, provided that such practice will not conflict or tend to conflict with their official functions."

Article IV, Section 4-3.1 of the AFP Code of Ethics also prohibits AFP personnel from "directly or indirectly engaging oneself in outside employment or business sidelines using government time unless authorized by law."

The pilots said they were aware of these provisions. "That's why we filed our application for terminal leave and eventual resignation, but they won't let us go," a pilot said.

He said he applied with four commercial airlines last year, but only decided to pursue his application this year.

Fighter planes gone

"I have served the Air Force to the best of my ability and I really treasure my eight years. But I do not have a good reason to stay," he said.

He said he planned his career so he could become a fighter pilot. "But we don't even have fighter planes," he said, two days after the PAF retired its fleet of F-5 fighter planes.

Last year, as a commercial pilot filed an affidavit defending himself against an intelligence report that he was working as a commercial pilot while still on active duty.

He said he was already on approved terminal leave and was not receiving any pay from the PAF when he underwent "training" with the airlines. "I am preparing myself for my next career outside the Air Force," he said.

He acknowledged that he was aware of the policy prohibiting pilots from getting employment while on terminal leave. "But we cannot predict the opportunity outside," he said.

Not one pilot has ever resigned first and applied for work afterward "because nobody wants to gamble with his family's future," he said.

(Fe Zamora is a senior reporter of the Inquirer.)

PDI FILE PHOTO

Aircraft of the PAF

Huey	41
Nomad (light lift aircraft)	3
MG-520 (attack helicopter)	17
OV-10 (bomber plane)	14
S-211 (trainer jet)	4
C130 (cargo plane)	2
Sikorsky helicopter *(for rescue)*	6
Huey 2 *(for rescue)*	1
Bell 205 *(for rescue)*	2
Bell 412 *(presidential aircraft)*	6
Fokker F27 *(presidential aircraft)*	1
Fokker F28 *(presidential aircraft)*	1
Black Hawk (in storage)	1
SF260 Turboprop (light attack aircraft)	6
SF260 Mentor (basic trainer aircraft)	3
Layang (trainer aircraft)	1
T41D (primary trainer aircraft) or Cessna	12

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Gov calls anti-jueteng czar 'mad dog'

BATANGAS CITY—THE GOVERNOR OF BATANGAS province who was mentioned in a Senate hearing as one of the country's biggest gambling lords described anti-jueteng czar Edward Hagedorn, also Puerto Princesa mayor, as a "mad dog" for alleging that "jueteng" has resumed in Batangas and other parts of Luzon.

Sanchez on Friday called Hagedorn a *bang-aw*, a Batangueño slang for "mad dog," after Hagedorn said the illegal numbers racket has resurfaced in the province and other parts of Luzon.

During a news briefing inside his office just before the inauguration of the refurbished provincial capitol grounds, Sanchez scoffed at Hagedorn for saying that jueteng operations resumed in Batangas.

Sanchez, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was mentioned by witness Boy Mayor as one of the biggest jueteng lords in the country.

"*Bang-aw siya. Baka siya ang nagpapajueteng. Bakit niya alam na bumalik na ang jueteng?* (He's a mad dog. He could be behind the jueteng operations. How did he know that jueteng has resumed?)" Sanchez said, reacting to a question from a journalist.

"I'm the governor here, I should know better than him. Even my mayors don't know anything about the supposed resumption of jueteng," he added.

Sanchez played down Hagedorn's effectiveness as anti-jueteng czar, saying the illegal numbers game has stopped even before the mayor was appointed to the position by Ms Arroyo several months ago.

He said Hagedorn, who admitted to have been once a jueteng financier in Puerto Princesa, was issuing statements about the resumption of jueteng as a leverage to push for the implementation of small town lottery.

Sanchez dared Hagedorn to place a bet in any town in Batangas where jueteng allegedly resumed.

"What I'm saying is true. There is no more jueteng in Batangas," said the governor, who was sued for graft at the Ombudsman for the alleged rigging of a P300-million computerization project in the province. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

South Leyte overtakes Davao in rice harvests

MAASIN CITY—SOUTHERN Leyte has overtaken the province of Davao as the No. 1 rice producer in the country, the head of the Department of Agriculture here said.

Leo Cañeda, DA regional director in Eastern Visayas, said the success of the rice intensification program of the provincial government has made Southern Leyte the top rice producer in the country surpassing Davao in terms of hectares planted to "Higante" and "Tisoy" certified seeds in the April to October cropping season.

Southern Leyte was only second to Davao in the September 2004 to April 2005 cropping season in the implementation of the hybrid rice program nationwide, Cañeda said.

Cañeda said the success was attributed to the provincial government's intensified campaign in rice commercialization. The province has also been recognized by the Department of Agriculture as the region's best performer in commercialization of hybrid rice.

Using hybrid "Higante" and "Tisoy" seeds planted in about 2,000 hectares, the rice production of the province almost doubled, form 70 cavans to 125 to 140 cavans per hectare, Cañeda said. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Lottery backing withdrawn

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—THE provincial board on Friday junked its endorsement of a test run of the "Loterya ng Bayan" in Pangasinan after the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office denied accrediting its supposed proponent to operate the game.

During a committee hearing on the proposal of the Numbers Numbers Co. Inc., PCSO provincial officer Arneli Dancel said the PCSO "has not accredited any company" to operate the Loterya ng Bayan because the lottery is technically non-existent.

Dancel said only Congress approves all forms of lottery being implemented by the PCSO.

A project proposal earlier submitted by Rolando Dee, a coordinator of the Numbers Numbers Co. Inc., to the provincial board showed that the Loterya ng Bayan is a "repackaged small town lottery (STL) project." It will be run in selected provinces where "jueteng" is operating or had operated.

Lawyer Cesar Cariño, counsel of the Numbers Numbers Co. Inc., told the provincial board that he did not know how the company would run the lottery.

Cariño's comment drew the ire of Board Member John John Rosario.

"How can we endorse something we know nothing about?" Rosario told Cariño.

Board Member Emmanuel Carancho withdrew his endorsement of the lottery proposal "until the PCSO and Congress will say it is aboveboard and legal."

"There is no reason why I should continue sponsoring the lottery," he said.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who earlier opposed the entry of Loterya ng Bayan in the province, welcomed the board's decision to junk the endorsement.

"I'm happy that the resolution was withdrawn, I put a period to the issue. I thank all those concerned and beg them to please look for other moral ways and means to help the needy," Cruz said.

The bishop, who chairs the antigambling Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng (National Crusade Against Jueteng), was invited to the committee hearing on Friday but he did not show up during the session.

The Numbers Numbers Co. Inc., however, has not given up on the lottery's operation in Pangasinan.

Cariño said the company would again try to propose the lottery's operation when it complies with the requirements set by the PCSO and the provincial board.

A letter from Makati City Administrator Nicanor Santiago Jr. addressed to lawyer Verna Nava-Perez, board secretary, said the company has "no permit to set up any Numbers Numbers outlet in any part of Makati."

Cruz said the Loterya is the same STL that the government was planning to run to replace illegal jueteng operations. The police said syndicated operations of jueteng in major provinces in the country had stopped since April. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

AFP chief sees need for new laws to keep troops off elections

GUDANI

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga on Saturday said Philippine Military Academy cadets have assured him that their morale is high, in the aftermath of court-martial charges filed against two former officials of the academy.

But some military officials said the testimonies of retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, former PMA assistant superintendent, and Col. Alexander Balutan, former assistant commandant of cadets, about cheating during the 2004 presidential elections in Mindanao, meant that new laws must be crafted to exclude the Armed Forces of the Philippines from all "nontraditional" and election-related duties.

A Senate committee looking into alleged wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official solicited Gudani's testimony at a Sept. 28 hearing.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. on Saturday told the cadets in his speech during the 107th PMA foundation day rites here that the military has been burdened with "nontraditional" roles, which ultimately compels it to take political sides.

"History has shown that the reliance of civilian institutions [on] the efficiencies and capabilities of the military organization—to perform what are essentially civilian functions—promotes the disposition, sets the mood, and provides the opportunity for the military to engage in partisan politics," Cruz said. "Such is the case when our soldiers are asked to perform nontraditional roles such as being deputized during elections," he said.

Gudani defied Ms Arroyo when he appeared before a Senate committee that was looking into Ms Arroyo's alleged wiretapped conversations with an election official. He claimed that his reassignment to PMA from his duties as ground commander of a Mindanao Marine unit was due to his refusal to support election cheating.

Former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat said the military is bound by law to serve during elections, "but only to handle security," although their presence gives administration candidates the opportunity to use them.

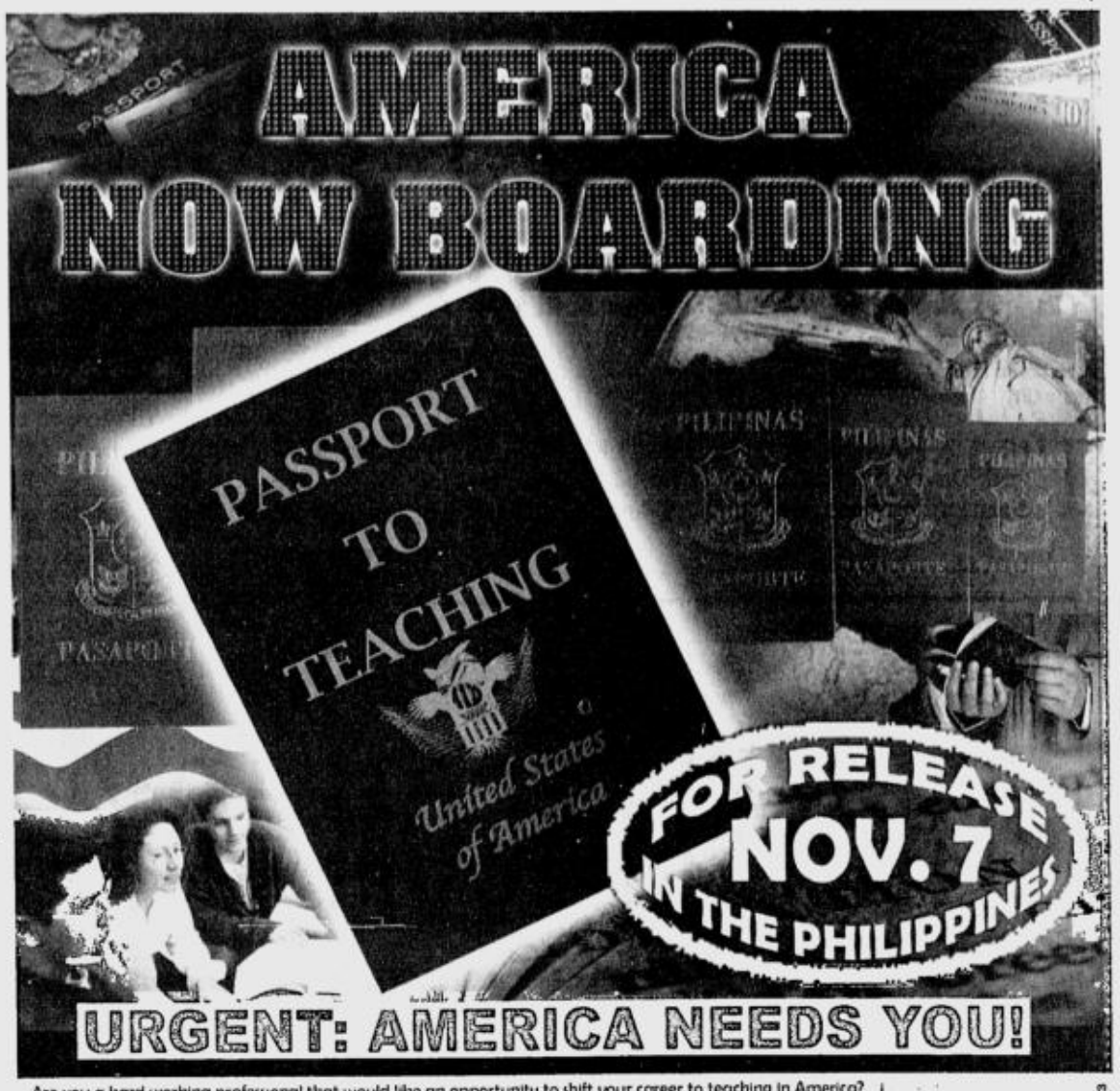
"*Dapat naming pag-aralan yung* nontraditional roles *ng* AFP (We need to study what are these nontraditional roles of the AFP). The more nontraditional roles are removed, the more we can concentrate on our principal mandate of protecting the sovereignty of this country, particularly in the next 10 years [so we can concentrate on fighting] internal security threats," Cruz said. "[Removing election duties] might need some legislations, it might need some regulations... *Mas maganda kung may* legislation (It's better if there is new legislation)," he said.

He said the military's campaign at keeping the recent elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) "abnormally peaceful" proved that "it is possible for the military to perform its mandated task and remain insulated from partisan politics."

But Cruz said he needed to negotiate for a limited military role before the ARMM polls proceeded, to reduce the chances of the AFP being politically involved.

"I was able to convince the Commission on Elections to stop counting ballots inside the military camps, which had become a common practice. The AFP becomes involved in canvassing [as a consequence]. This was the Comelec's job, not the military's," he said.

The negotiated ARMM rules for the military emphasized the AFP's security duties and obtained the commitment of candidates there, Cruz said. Brig. Gen. Ben Mohammed Dolorfino, commander of the AFP Task Force Hope for ARMM and a former PMA commandant of cadets, implemented the new military rules. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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November 12 American Boards Info-Seminar & Expo
SM Megatrade Conference Hall A & B
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
1:00 pm and 4:00 pm (Choose one)
Entrance Fee: P100 (Open to the public)

CEBU EVENTS

November 10 E-World and American Boards Country Launch
A Private Cocktail & Press Presentation
Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City (By invitation only)

November 11 American Boards Info-Seminar & Expo
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SM City, Cebu City
6:00 pm
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November 12, 2005	Saturday	8-12	Guidance Testing Center
November 26, 2005	Saturday	8-12	Guidance Testing Center
December 10, 2005	Saturday	8-12	Guidance Testing Center
January 14, 2006	Saturday	8-12	Guidance Testing Center
January 28, 2006	Saturday	8-12	Guidance Testing Center
February 18, 2006	Saturday	8-12	Guidance Testing Center
March 04, 2006	Saturday	8-12 & 1-5	ST Bldg. Rm. 124, 125, 126
March 11, 2006	Saturday	8-12 & 1-5	ST Bldg. Rm. 124, 125, 126
March 18, 2006	Saturday	8-12 & 1-5	ST Bldg. Rm. 124, 125, 126
March 25, 2006	Saturday	8-12 & 1-5	ST Bldg. Rm. 124, 125, 126
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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

A never ending story of evacuation

By Rolando Pinsoy
Davao City

THE ATA-MANOBO IN THE HINTERLANDS OF TALAINgod, Davao del Norte knew that because of the Oct. 2 encounter between the military and New People's Army (NPA) rebels, they have to leave their villages to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Based on experience, the ancestral land that they have been protecting is in constant threat from business interests.

And it happened. Two days after the clash, they heard gunshots from high powered weapons. This signaled the exodus of the Ata-Manobo to low-lying villages as soldiers from the Reengineered Special Operations Team of the 73rd Infantry Battalion started conducting anti-insurgency operations in their areas.

Since the start of the military operations, more than 500 Ata-Manobo from 17 communities have sought refuge with relatives in other villages or hid in the farms and the forest. During the evacuation, a 4-month-old child died.

One of those displaced is Laraw Andel, 21, his wife and two sons. Eleven years ago, Andel's community in Barangay Nasilaban was occupied by soldiers. They trekked the hills and hid in the forest to evade military checkpoints and logging guards.

It started when the Ata-Manobo tribe opposed the Industrial Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) that the government entered into with the Alcantara and Sons Inc. (Alsons). The enforcement of the Ifma allegedly resulted to harassment and abuses by the military.

When the Ifma tree plantation started damaging crops and killing their livestock, the Ata-Manobo were forced to evacuate to Davao City in August of 1994 to protest what they called "military-aided land-grabbing scheme of the company."

Their month-long struggle has led to the demarcation of their ancestral lands from the Alsons plantation.

Because of this victory, Talaingod became famous for its brave inhabitants, the Ata-Manobo tribe and the members of Salugpongan Ta Tanu Igkanugon (Lumad Unity in Defense of Ancestral Domains) who fought, won and continued their struggle for their territory.

Hydro power project

But development has started to encroach into their domain again.

This time, they believe the soldiers entered Talaingod because of the P738-million hydro power plant proposed by the Hydro Energy Corp. to be implemented by the Department of Energy and officials as well as various stakeholders from the municipality. The mini-hydro power plant is expected to supply electricity to five towns in Davao del Norte.

The Japan Hydro Consul Corp. through the Development Bank of the Philippines is financing the project. The company has an application for an environmental compliance certificate before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Salugpongan spokesperson Kaylo Bantolan said they went to Davao City to "express the fear of the lumad and to ask support [from] the people in the city."

This was similar to the appeal they made in 1994. That year, the Davao City government facilitated the return of the tribe to their homes.

Lt. Col. Rolando Bautista of the 73rd IB on Sept. 29 said there was no militarization in Talaingod and that their presence was merely to secure the areas and act as "facilitators for peace and development."

The Salugpongan members are also calling for respect to the agreement that was forged in 1994, which set a boundary beyond which government soldiers cannot go.

The boundary is where Sangkuyog Tundag, a Salugpongan member who was shot to death by the military, was buried. Alsons then offered to indemnify his death but his mother rejected it. She, however, insisted that the military should not go beyond his grave. Thus, it has become the basis of the agreement.

The Salugpongan members vowed not to return to Talaingod until they obtain the same victory they achieved in 1994.

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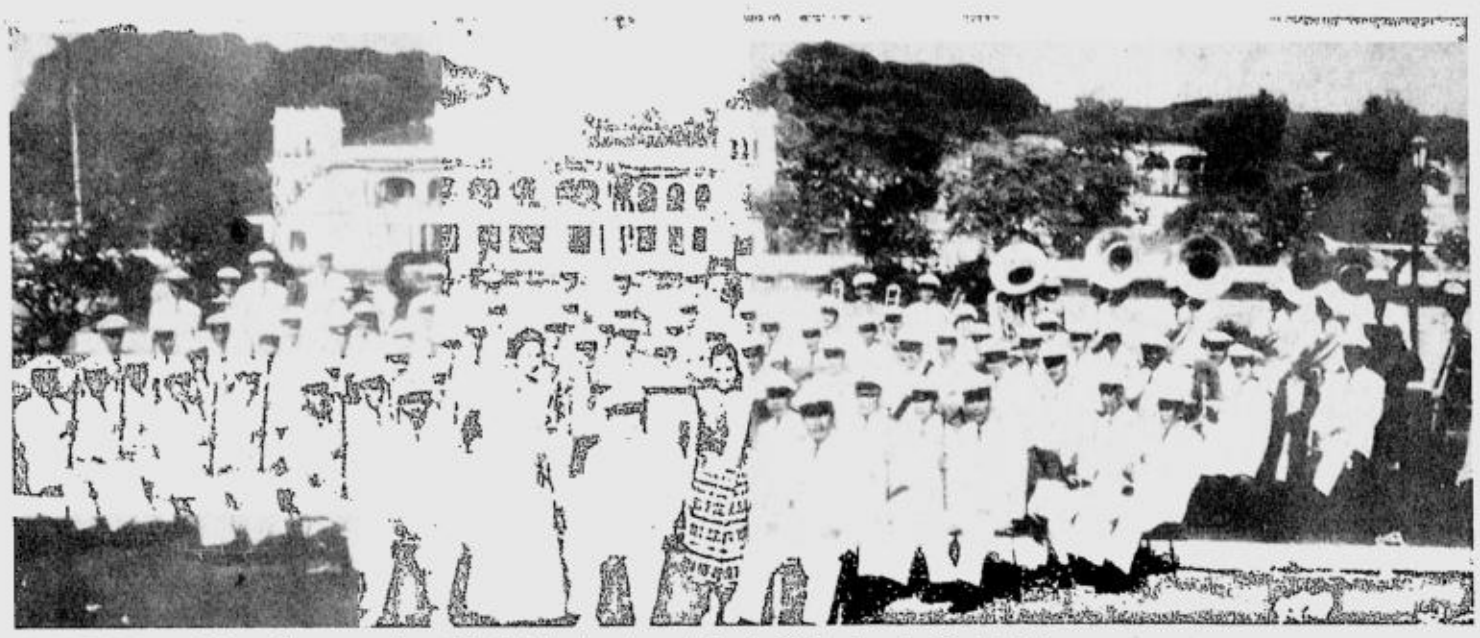
Malabon Pula: The band plays on

By Nancy C. Carvajal



MEMBERS of one of the earlier generations of the Malabon band pose in front of Malacañang in this old photo.

OTHER MARCHING BANDS MIGHT have quietly disappeared but the century-old Malabon Pula plays on, doing the overtures for major events and providing the solemn music in funerals, according to the descendants of its founder, Claudio Agtarap.

"The band had kept up with the times," according to cousins Edwin and Jaime Agtarap, fourth generation members of the group set up in the 19th century.

The cousins, who acted as managers of the musical group, said only the name of the band and some instruments that were preserved and restored were old.

Century-old drums and canons for "war" effects were stored in their modest studio that also served as their office in Barangay Tanong. Rehearsals were done there.

In the early days, when fiestas were big events, marching bands like Malabon Pula were regular features of the celebrations.

No fiesta was considered successful without the majorettes leading a team of musicians carrying drums, bugles, trumpets and other huge instruments going around town.

A regular at fiesta

Malabon Pula remains a regular feature of the city's annual feast day with a little difference.

The Agtaraps said they were a marching band for fiestas and funerals but had updated their repertoire, depending on the specification of the clients.

In their line of business, they said they had to keep abreast of the audience's taste to survive.

A marching band is usually composed of not less than 30 musicians who play cymbals, drums, clarinets, flute, piccolo, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, bass and other instruments.

Uniforms for a group of 50 musicians cost around P100,000 at present, the Agtaraps said.

The current Malabon Pula band, the cousins said, had won in several brass band competitions, an indication that they were worthy inheritors of a great legacy.

"Three or four years ago the band was the grand slam winner in a festival held in Antipolo," one of the cousins said.

The cousins feel an obligation to keep the band playing the way their fathers and their fathers before them had worked to keep the musical group alive.

THE NEW breed of players of the Malabon Pula Band during practice. Standing, from left, are Alestor de la Cruz, Albert de la Cruz, Christopher Matias and Freddie de la Torre. Seated, from left, are Froilan de la Torre, Jonathan Cruz and Andrenov de la Cruz. RODEL ROTONI

"Our fathers' band is not only a legacy of their love for music, but it helped send our generation to school," the pair said. The cousins' fathers were conductor and music arranger of the band.

Members of the band, the cousins said, eventually moved on to bigger and more prestigious groups like the Presidential Band, the Philippine Army Band and the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

Edwin's father, Wenceslao, was featured in a 1952 article in Sunday Times as the first cymbalist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

"(The band) became a training ground not only for the present generation but also for older members," the Agtaraps said.

Most of them, according to the Agtaraps, enrolled in college on music scholarships, becoming members of the bands of their respective schools.

Though they acknowledged that being a musician required discipline and sacrifice, the cousins chorused that "It was worth it."

No one in the current band has moved on to a bigger group. Most of them have remained with Malabon Pula. Now, even some of their children have joined the band to make a living.

Columnist Neal Cruz, who lived in the city when he was younger, said, "Malabon Pula was the most popular group when I was growing up."

Cruz could still remember the band's distinctive uniform—a flame red ensemble with gold piping.

"There were more than two brass bands then that played the same music. So the only difference I could remember was the uniform," Cruz added.

According to Teodorica, the 82-year-old wife of the third generation member of the band—Wenceslao Agtarap—the continued existence of the band signified the present generation's understanding of the country's history and culture.

Teodorica said she actually played the clarinet for the rival group, Malabon Puti, starting at age 13. She stopped when she married the leader of Malabon Pula.

The band (Malabon Pula), Teodorica said "symbolizes the spirit, courage and patriotism of the generation before us."

Teodorica added that the group was initially called Banda de Tanong when it was created sometime in the late 1800s.

"But it had to be changed because of the creation of another band called "Malabon Puti," she said.

According to her, the other band was called "Puti" because it had silver-colored instruments.

"To (differentiate between the groups), the band that used gold-colored instruments was called Bandang Pula," she explained.

Malabon Puti, she said, disbanded many years ago for reasons she did not know.

As for the current band's repertoire, music had not changed a lot, including those played in marching bands, the Agtaraps said. The music remained the same except for some modifications to suit the audience's taste," they said.

Songs like "Otso-otso" and "Spagetti" could be played along Serenatas and other classical music.

At present, there are seven bands in the city including the Malabon Dos which the Agtaraps call a "breakaway group."

Bookings, they said, especially this year had been few, but they had to keep the band going.

"I started when I was 13 and my fee was P35 per performance," Edwin said.

He plays the drums and has worked abroad as a musician.

He said 30 of the 50 members of the current band were related.

"We had to (confine membership to members of) the family. Besides, most of us enjoy playing in the band," Edwin said.

He added that when played in the band "they enjoyed the feeling of belonging."

METROBRIEFS

Bus scheme 'a success'

DESPITE initial glitches, the first week of controlled bus dispatch on Edsa was a success, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said Friday. Mon Santiago, head of the MMDA Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System, said traffic improved, with private vehicles traveling 35 percent to 40 percent faster from the average 22 kph. The agency likewise observed less queuing of buses at major intersections, and increase in the number of passengers carried by buses per trip. However, MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the roughly 3,500 buses plying Edsa should only complete two roundtrips each to viably carry some 300,000 commuters a day. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Fire hits 2 QC communities

ABOUT 400 houses were destroyed and six people were hurt when fire swept through two crowded communities in Quezon City yesterday afternoon. PO2 Enrique Camuyot said fire first erupted at about 12 noon in Area ABCD NIA Road, Barangay Piñahan, which affected close to 300 houses and some 2,000 families. It was put out three hours later. At 4:03 p.m., a blaze was reported at Compound 3 Dagot St., Barangay Manresa. The Manresa fire was declared put out at past 6 p.m. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Protesters break into song

A GROUP of performers believes that song and dance may help force President Macapagal-Arroyo out of office. On Friday night and then last night, the group, which included singer Gary Granada, performed at the Plaza Miranda in Manila and in Quezon City to call for Arroyo's resignation. The concert came on the heels of the launching of the album "Creative Protest Response." The album includes Granada's previous hit single "Values Education." Other alternative artists like Noel Cabangon, Crazy as Pinoy, Cookie Chua and Agaw Agimat lent their talents in the concerts dubbed as "Wag Kang Mang-go-Gloria." In a statement, Granada said the "creative protest response" was to express the people's sentiments through the arts. "This is a stark contrast to the brutality and utter crassness of Gloria's handling of legitimate dissent and opposition to her policies and her brand of governance," Granada said. *Tina G. Santos*

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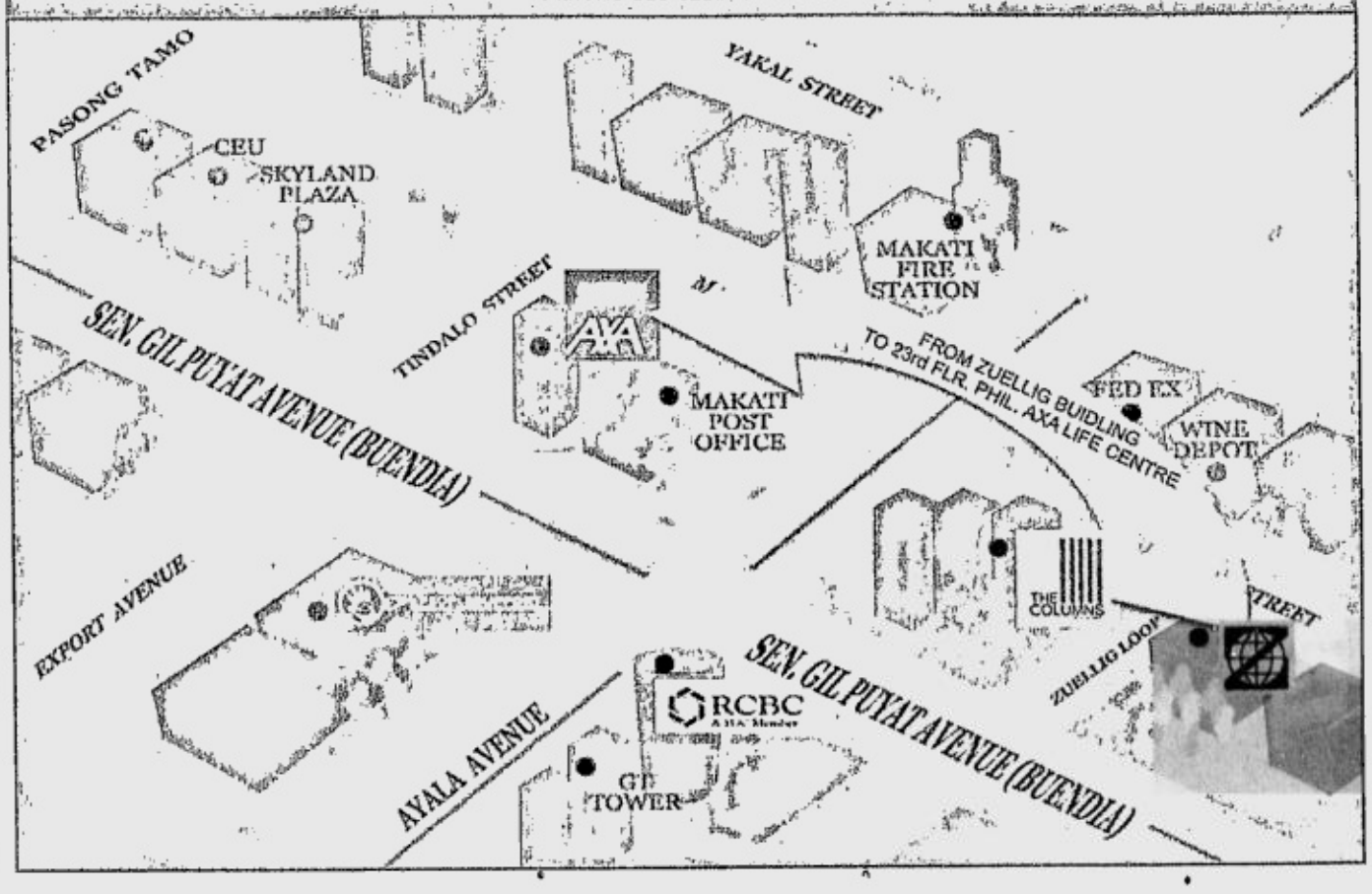

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

BASEBALL: MLB World Series Game 1; 7:30 a.m. (r-4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.); ESPN – The Fall Classic begins.
BASKETBALL: NBA Pre-Season Games – Kings vs Blazers; 10 a.m.; Solar Sports – Sacramento and Portland clash in this tune-up match.

SPORTS TV! Compiled by L. Mangulat

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Stubbly Rocket faces the bubbly White Sox /A26
■ Disney golf losing shine /A26

Red Bull takes on San Miguel; Air21-SLR up

RED BULL SEEKS TO PIN A FOURTH STRAIGHT loss on slumping San Miguel today even as Air21 and Sta. Lucia Realty try to get back on track in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum.

After getting most of the locals involved in their recent conquest of the Express, coach Yeng Guiao wants more of the same when his Barako slug it out with the Beermen in the 4:10 p.m. contest.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:10 p.m.-Air21 vs Sta. Lucia Realty
6:40 p.m.-Red Bull Barako vs San Miguel Beer

"We don't want to rely too much on our import," said Guiao. "It's not that we don't want him to score 40 points or more, but it would be better if we get more local contribution."

Meanwhile, Purefoods Chunkee notched its third straight victory by beating Barangay Ginebra, 84-78 in an out-of-town match in Cagayan de Oro City last night.

Dondon Hontiveros and Dorian Pena are still nursing injuries and are again listed as doubtful, putting a huge hole in the offense of Jong Uichico, whose Beermen are in an unfamiliar 0-3 situation.

Import Rico Hill has not been of great help for the Beermen and sources said this could be his last game with San Miguel.

Quemont Greer averaged 38 points during the first three games where the Barako lost two.

Against the Express, the flamboyant Greer finished with 25 points but Red Bull got double-digit scoring from Lordy Tugade and Cyrus Baguio.

Rookie Larry Fonacier had a breakout game while Warren Ybanez, Junthy Valenzuela and Rico Villanueva also had worthy contributions.

"The best scenario would be Q (Greer) going into a scoring spree with the locals also contributing heavily," said Guiao, whose Barako are tied with the Realtors (2-2) in the middle of the pack.

Coming off an 87-80 defeat against the unbeaten Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, the Realtors are hoping that Leonard White could bail them out this time opposite the Express at 6:40 p.m.

White, who replaced Luke Whitehead, had an impressive debut but couldn't finish the job for the Realtors.

Dennis Espino sees action for the first time, coming back from a freak accident in the weight's room to help ease the burden in the paint off buddy Marlou Aquino.

Coach Alfrancis Chua said Espino's presence will not only help Aquino but also give Chester Tolomia, Paolo Mendoza and rookies Cesar Catli and Alex Cabagnot more good looks at the basket.

The Express are coming off a double-overtime loss against the Alaska Aces Friday night.

By June Navarro

Bondad pulls away by 5 in HK tourney

HONG KONG—FRANCES BONDAD BIRDIED three of her last eight holes to salvage an even-par 73 yesterday and pad an overnight one-stroke lead to five heading into the final round of the 2005 Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Asian Golf Monthly International Amateur Open.

Bondad gunned down birdies on Nos. 11, 15 and 17 to recover three strokes dropped earlier, including a double bogey 7 on No. 10, to total 145 after 36 holes at the north course of the Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Club and pace local bet Demy Mak.

Mak signed for her version of a 73 and became Bondad's newest pursuer after Thai ace Pornanong Phatlum ballooned to a 78 for 151.

Porani Chutichai, the other Thai bet who beat Bondad in the recent Hong Kong Ladies Amateur Open in Fanling, hardly moved with a 77 for a 152 although the spearhead of Thailand in next month's Southeast Asian Games in Manila is expected to mount a charge today.

While her rivals faded under windy playing conditions, Bondad played steady all day, needing just 25 putts.

The only hiccup came on the 10th, the hole she eagled on the opening round, when Bondad lost her third shot to the trees.

"We thought Frances would give it away after a double-bogey but she kept her composure and instead went -3 on the last 8 holes," said Chris Guerrero, who acts as the coach of the squad with NGAP's Jake Ayson as team captain.

"She actually likes playing this course and under these conditions. Because it's just like what she's used to play in Australia—links courses with tight fairways, no trees, strong winds and fast greens. It's really a test of one's patience and experience," added Guerrero.

Crystal Superal shot a second straight 84 for a 168 while Mia Piccio, the third and last Filipino in the fold, was another shot back at 169 after an 86.

Superal and Piccio, whose stint here with Bondad is sponsored by golf patron Enrique Razon Jr. through the National Golf Association of the Philippines, were among the top 17 players after 36 holes who advanced to the final round of this event serving as the RP ladies' final tuneup for the SEA Games slated Nov. 28-30 at the Manila Golf Club.

Bondad, the former RP Ladies Open champion, is eyeing no less than revenge over the fancied Thais, who beat her in a final round shootout in Fanling two weeks ago.

Tied with Chutichai and Phatlum in the final round, Bondad cracked up and hobbled with a 76, winding up third and enabling Chutichai to win the crown with a 71. Phatlum made it a 1-2 finish for Thailand with a 73.

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Hapee-PCU rips Granny Goose

COMEBACKING HAPEE-PCU UNVEILED two promising stars from the South Friday as the Teethmasters repulsed the Granny Goose Tortillos Snackmasters, 62-56, in the 2005 PBL Heroes Cup pre-season game at the Lyceum gym.

Aries Gloria, a prized find from Cebu, took the spotlight away from the more popular Gabby Espinas as he scattered 14 points, highlighted by three treys, that set the tone for the team's easy win.

"Matindi ang kamay ng bata, tiyak na maging marked man ito pagdating ng tournament," said team manager-Bernard Yang. "If you give him an inch, he will go for a two, if you give him a two, he will go for a three."

Sharing the limelight with the 5-foot-11 Gloria was backcourt partner Mark Moreno who impressed Hapee coach Junel Baculi with his creative plays and penetration skills. Moreno, a product of West Negros College in Bacolod, finished with six points.

The Snackmasters controlled the first quarter behind the torrid outside shooting of Jett Latonio and inside strength of RJ Quinahan.

Kasibulan 6-12 Football Festival in Olongapo draws 60 squads

THE OLONGAPO CITY—ZAMBALES FOOTball Association (OCZ-FA) is staging a Kasibulan 6-12 Football Festival at the East Tapinac Sports Complex in Olongapo City. OCZ-FA president Hubert Magrata and Kasibulan instructor Raul Jayme are the organizers of these two-day event featuring over sixty teams from four districts.

Special guests for the opening ceremony are City Mayor James Gordon, Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, PFF Deputy Gen Sec and Director of Kasibulan Nonnoy Carpio and former Laguna FA president Edward Magallona.

SPORTSWATCH

Hoops School boosts training equipment

HOOPS School is bringing in top-of-the-line training gadgets to boost the learning skills of aspiring Filipino cagers. Former PBL commissioner and PBA Team Manager Charlie Favis said that just like any academic institution, training schools should also upgrade their equipment and modules to keep pace with the latest trends in the world basketball scene. Favis said Hoops School ensures that its students get the best equipment and latest technology in its schools. Among the equipment that Hoops School will bring in are the latest shooting straps, shooting arm guides, heavy balls, and dribbling specs. Hoops School is also using NBA-regulated backboards and basketballs made by Spalding and Huffy USA.

PICAA, Fil-Chinese caging opens

THE 2005 PICAA Open and Filipino-Chinese basketball tournament opens today at the Philippine Buddhacare Academy gym in Maria Clara St. cor. Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Quezon City councilor Ariel Inton will make the ceremonial toss with Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) vice president Christian Tan, during the 1 p.m. opening ceremony. National Basketball Conference (NBC) campaigner Spring Cooking Oil and former PICAA champion Wang's Ballclub head the list of teams seeing action in the two-month long tournament supported by Absorba Sportswear and Fire Emergency Paramedic Assistance Group. The other teams are El Abarsoza-Pamplona (Gerald Abarsoza/Mon Rodriguez), Mediatrix Telecoms (Mike Dullas), UCM Automotive Components-Lyceum of the Philippines (Boni Tan), Burlington-Mail&More-Philippine College of Criminology (Johnny Tam), King's Bakeshop and Golden Bird (Leonard Chan/Allan Jimenez). In the Filipino-Chinese category, the entries are Virgin Cola, Nougat Candy, Hobe Bihon, Mighty Filter Kings and Ohana Trading. For inquiries, call commissioner Eusebio "Boy" Ong at 366-0357 (morning only) or text Liza at 0918-4406777.

Tour of Matabungkay Oct. 29-30

THE FIRST-EVER two-day PowerBar-Tour of Matabungkay in Batangas takes place Oct. 29-30 with around 15 teams and several individual amateur cyclists competing. Hosted by the Matabungkay Beach Resort and Hotel with the objective of reintroducing the beautiful white sand beach of Matabungkay to local travelers, the race will be passing through the towns of Lian, Nasugbu, Tuy, Batangas and Calatagan. "We welcome the holding of this first-time sports tourism here in Matabungkay and our resort is proud to be part of this race which is expected to be held annually starting this year, and to grow bigger too, according to the organizers," said hotel GM Rico Violeta. For details, contact 752-5252 or 8193080.

Jacinto tops Rotax Max Novice

DINO Jacinto of Team Birel won over nephew Jean Marcelo in the final round of the Rotax Max novice division of the Shell Super Karting Series recently at the Carmona Racing Circuit. Tied at 252 points coming into the final leg neither one had an advantage until the final checkered flag was waived when Jacinto crossed the finish line in the third and final heat to emerge as class champion for this group. Jacinto won the first heat and was comfortably ahead in the second heat until he was given a black flag on the fourth lap. Marcelo was running ahead in the second heat but did not finish due to technical problems. This set the stage for a final showdown between the two karters. Starting form the 10th and last position in the final heat, Jacinto assumed the lead in the middle part of the race which he never relinquished. In the cadet novice class, 8-year-old Hanna Jacinto took second runner-up honors. She also posted the best time during the first heat.

SJC girds up for big derby

THE SECOND part of Big Event Part II 8-stag derby is slated at the air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum on Oct. 26 and 29, with at least 90 fights lined up. The derby will start at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. Submission of weights is on Tuesday, from 2-9 p.m. Majority of the participants will come from the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP), said Patrick Antonio. Among those entered are Boy Jiao, Jun Santiago and Gov. Ito Ynares of the National Cockers Association (NCA). Also in the list are Manny Pacquiao, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Antonio, Gerry Ramos, Boy de Roca, two-time world champ William Go, Dicky Lim, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Jun Topacio; Representatives Butch Pichay and Jing Paras, Roxas Brothers, Eric dela Rosa, Ramon Mancenares, Jet Fernando, Pampanga Group, Pol Estrellado, Nitoy Nasser, ASF Listana Group, Boy Royo, Rod Barro and Bong Villanueva. For details, contact 725-5665, 7255369 and 7277086 (look for Ariel).

Weigh-in today for Bakbakan

SUBMISSION of entries for the Bakbakan National 9-stag derby will be held today at the Araneta Coliseum green gate, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fights will be held tomorrow. Seeing action in the second round eliminations are members of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA). The entries of Bobby Doromal and Pol Estrellado posted three wins each in the first round eliminations staged Thursday night. Joey Lapid's bet has 2.5 points while 14 others posted two wins each. A participant must score at least two points to qualify for the semifinal rounds on Nov. 15, 17, 21, 22 and 24. For details, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928 or 0920-5851940.

Beach Volleyball on Golf Power Plus

GOLF Power Plus features this afternoon an exciting match in the elimination round of the Samsung Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge between FEU Team 1 and College of St. Benilde Team 4. The game was played at the beach volleyball court of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. Golf Power Plus is aired nationwide at 3 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9 and is aired worldwide on ABS-CBN Global's TFC/Pinoy Central TV.

PBA president and former first lady Amelita Ramos inspects a mockup of the first issue of Badminton Today. Rod Tan-Gatue, PBA treasurer and executive/managing editor and creative director Al Ballesca look on.

La Salle golfers pull away from Ateneo at John Hay

MURAKAMI: La Salle spearhead

BAGUIO CITY—THE YOUTH BRIGADE STOOD AT THE HELM OF A RElentless assault that saw La Salle sweep six matches yesterday morning and found itself with a commanding lead going into the final round of the Ateneo-La Salle Match Play 2005 at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

The tandems of Artemio Murakami-Justin Tambunting, Miko Yee-Jenz Tecson and Terence Macatangay-Miko Alejandro all finished off their rivals early to highlight the 6-0 massacre in the morning foursomes that may yet spell the difference in the showdown.

King Stehmeier-Louie Garcia won on the last hole while Ronnie Littaua-Raffy Garcia and Bobby Celestino-Raymond Sangil also pulled off tight wins for the other La Salle victories.

After opening up an 8.5-3.5 advantage in the first round, La Salle bloated its lead to 14.5-3.5 going into the afternoon fourball yesterday. And chances are, Ateneo may have a lot of catching up to do in today's 18 singles matches.

La Salle captain Freddie Mendoza said that the results were certainly beyond their expectations.

"I think we've done our homework on our pairings, our training and even the way we psyched up the boys," said Mendoza. "We just wanted to keep it close but we're surprised to have such a big lead."

For a while, La Salle was deemed to be the underdog with its youth-laden crew compared to Ateneo's army of veterans. But the young guns instead are dominating the action.

Ateneo found itself pinned to the wall in the tourney presented by Smart Communications as a team needs just 21.5 points to win the battle.

Other sponsors of the event are PLDT, Nokia, Camp John Hay Golf Club, CJH Dev't Co., CJH Manor, Golforce, Gainers Marketing, Pisanti, Kork, Le Chef, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Club Leisure Management Corp.

So overpowering were the La Sallians that Murakami and Tambunting took their opponents Jun-Jun Plana and Jovi Neri to a short drive back to clubhouse after just the 13th and so did Yee-Tecson against Marcel Puyat-Benjie Sarmiento.

Samsung Tour elims at AGE

THE CHANCE TO PLAY ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S most exclusive courses where only lot owners are allowed to bring in guests is on offer when the fifth and final eliminations leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour is played on Nov. 8-11 at the Ayala Greenfield Estate course in Calamba, Laguna.

The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed Ayala Greenfield course was opened for play to members only recently and the Samsung Tour leg will be the first high-caliber competition that will be played in the country's newest course.

By the time registration ends at 6 p.m. on Oct. 27, the maximum field of 248 players should have been met owing to the heightened curiosity of local golfers on the windblown, hazard-laden layout.

For inquiries, please call the PSMG office at 635-00-10.

It will actually be the last chance to qualify for the much-awaited grand finals of the Tour which will be held in another Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course, the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa City, early next year.

Special interest is also on the 72-hole championship division battle of the tourney also backed by Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Sun-Bolt, C-Lium Fiber, Rudy Project, Microtel and Solar Sports Plus. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

The organizing Professional Sports Management Group announced that only 124 entries will be accepted for 36-hole battles in men's Class A and Class B on Nov. 10-11 and another 124 for the three classes in the ladies category and the men's Class C and Class D on Nov. 8-9.

The Ayala Greenfield management is allowing a free practice round for each registered participant either on Nov. 4 or 5.

In its most recent leg at Riviera, Tonton Asistio became the youngest grand finals qualifier in the championship play with a runaway victory. He will be up against tested veterans Erwin Vinluan, Boyet Saragoza and Michael Bibat in the finals.

Fil-Japanese makes waves

OKUDA

FIL-JAPANESE EUGENE Okuda, a fourth-grade student of International School-Manila, pulled an easy victory in the final heat to emerge the overall Cadet champion recently in the Speedzone Sprint Race Series 2005 at the Speedzone in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The 9-year-old Eugene, son of Japanese Takeo Okuda and Filipina Eunice Roa-Okuda, climbed from third to wrest the pole on the fourth lap.

It was Okuda's show the rest of the way, gaining a 60-meter lead over runner-up Ton Joson midway to wrap up the title.

Roby Benito checked in third while Hanna Jacinto claimed fourth place honors.

Teammate and personal trainer Jojit Melchor also won the Novice Light final race.

Okuda capped the seven-leg series with two first places, four runner-up finishes and one third place.

The kickoff leg was an enduro race where Expert and Cadet karters raced altogether in a grueling one-hour non-stop race. Okuda emerged the top Cadet finisher completing 57 laps and even eclipsed older karters in the Expert division.

Canlubang hosts Sr Care Classic

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL PRIZES WILL BE DISputed by a full field of 120 players in the fourth Senior Care Fellowship on Thursday, Oct. 27 at the North course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna. Tee-off is shotgun style at 8 a.m.

Participants are all active members of the Senior Care Program of the FGCPI who will be playing under the Modified Stableford system of scoring.

Peping Cedo, chair of the Federation's Senior Care program, said that entries will be classified according to the following age brackets: Classic for those 55 to 59, Elite for 60-64, Statesmen for 65-69 and Vintage for 70 and above.

At stake are trophies for the lowest net, lowest gross and the top three finishers for each age-group in individual play. There will also be three winners for the team competition open to a group of five players with the best four scores to count.

Sponsors are Diageo Phils./Johnnie Walker, Toyota-Batangas, Century Park Hotel, Makati Shangri-La Manila, Milestone Hotel-Apartelle, The Pear Manila-Hotel, Pacsports Phils. Inc., Pascual Laboratories Inc./Immuvit, Medicus WE Corp., lawyer Gilberto Duavit, Citibank NA, C-Lium Fibre, Information Professionals Inc., P&O Ports Asia Operating Headquarters and F.E. Zuellig Phils. Inc.

Joining Cedo in the tournament committee are Popoy Flores, Pompeyo Nolasco, Gen. Charlie Tanega, Pablo Soon, Rey Adriano and Butch Brodett.

Appliances and merchandise as well as green fee certificates from various member clubs of the Federation will be raffled off. For inquiries, interested players may call Pie Ledesma at the Federation office 840-3951.

Twin losses knock out Pagulayan

ALEX PAGULAYAN SUFFERED ONE SETBACK after another and became the latest star casualty in the Philippine 9-Ball Open Friday night.

Dennis Orcollo stunned spectators at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall, sending the reigning US Open champ to the loser's bracket with a clinical 9-4 victory that underlined his mastery over Pagulayan.

"Dennis really has my number," said Pagulayan in Filipino.

Pagulayan's attempt to seek relief in the loser's bracket hit a brick wall in Ramil Gallego, who authored a 9-3 victory that knocked off the Filipino-Canadian from the even organized by Puyat Sports and Solar Sports.

"My bad luck carried over to the loser's bracket," rued the former world champion.

In another loser's bracket match, Mario Tolentino continued his giant-killing ways by skinning favored Leonardo "Dodong" Andam, 9-7.

Tolentino conquered Efren "Bata" Reyes and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat in the earlier rounds.

McKinley Firebird stagfighter leader

MIDWAY INTO THE RACE FOR NATIONAL Cockers Association's (NCA) Stagfighter of the Year title, Rep. Jing Paras and hotelier Biboy Enriquez (McKinley Firebird) emerged as the new pacesetter Thursday night at Makati Coliseum.

After four NCA 7-stag derbies participated in by the country's leading breeders, McKinley Firebird, powered by Enriquez's McLean Gilmore roundheads and Kelso Sweaters, tallied 19.5 points.

NCA's Stagfighter of the Year battle is regarded as the toughest because seven derbies, including the Grand National 8-stag derby on Nov. 15, 17 and 19, will be the basis in choosing the winner.

Riding high on a comfortable three-point lead, McKinley Firebird sets out as the heavy favorite when competition resumes on Tuesday and Thursday with another NCA 7-stag derby.

Paras and Enriquez's closest pursuers are Patrick Antonio, Boy Jiao and Beng Calivoso, Rep. Ronnie Puno, Lito Orillaza and Frank Berin.

Badminton Today out Nov. 15

THE PHILIPPINE BADMINTON ASsociation (PBA) will soon publish a quarterly magazine that will also serve as its official publication, according to PBA treasurer Rod Tan-Gatue. To be called Badminton Today, the glossy magazine will have PBA president and former first lady Amelita M. Ramos as its editor in chief, Tan Gatue as executive/managing editor and Al Ballesca as creative director. Veteran newsman Enrique Gonzales is editorial consultant.

The brother-and-sister tandem of Kennievic and Kennie Asuncion, mixed doubles gold medalist in the 2005 Peru International Badminton Open and bronze medalist in the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam, will be the cover of the magazine's maiden issue on Nov. 15. Among the featured stories is an article tracing the phenomenal growth of badminton from the once purely recreational activity that it was 10 years ago to the miracle sport that it is now.

Fita exec okays SEA Games archery venues

FITA (INTERNATIONAL ARCHERY Federation) vice president and technical delegate to the 2005 Southeast Asian Games Sanguan Kosavinta of Thailand has given his approval to the two archery venues at Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo City.

Kosavinta flew to Manila recently and inspected the venues and archery equipment needed to stage the event as required by Fita.

According to NAAP (National Archery Association of the Philippines) officials, Kosavinta "was satisfied with the venues." However, he was quite disappointed that the basic equipment (for national tournament) like timing device, targets butts and faces are not yet available.

Host Philippines has added the compound bow competition to the usual recurve event in the biennial regional sportsfest.

JUDGE Commission vice chair Joselyn Acop explains the setup at Remy Field to Kosavinta during his visit to Subic Bay Freeport. From left are NAAP president Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner, sec gen-treasurer Ligaya P. Manalang and Karla Cabrera

Empire King resumes stakes race campaign

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

JOHN CORDERO GUIDED EMPIRE KING FOR THE FIRST TIME TWO WEEKS AGO AND got acquainted well with the handsome colt.

That was during a Class-Division race where Empire King simply shook off the rust brought about by four months of inactivity.

Today, the son of Perfect Halo resumes his campaign as a 4-year-old and gets his first big test in the 5th leg of the Sta. Lucia Cup at the Santa Ana Park.

"*Gagawin ko lahat ang makakaya ko kampeon yata ang sakay ko* (I'll do my best because I'm riding a champion horse)," said Cordero, the fourth jockey tapped to mount last year's Presidential Gold Cup titlist and Triple Crown two-leg winner.

Colliding with Empire King in the 1,600-meter race is a tough bunch made up of Speed Advantage and imports Sound Offer and Pine Needles.

Empire King, was rested following a third-place finish in the Gran Copa de Manila (Div. 1) last June and returned to the track for a trial run last Oct. 4 during which Cordero became the latest partner of the chestnut galloper which was ridden previously by Jeffrey Ladiana, Antonio Alcasid Jr. and Pat Dilema.

To rev up for this afternoon's assignment, Empire King worked out over 1,600m last week and did 1:46.5, with still plenty in reserve.

Speed Advantage, the fiercest rival of Real Spicy in the 3-year-old division this year, and Sound Offer could emerge as Empire King's fiercest rivals in the race that likewise serves as the fifth leg of the Santa Ana Park Championship Series.

After losing to Real Spicy in their last meeting. Speed Advantage won two Class-Division races under Fernando Raquel Jr. successively, including one against last year's top filly Cover Girl.

Sound Offer, a 5-year-old bay mare from Australia, was also impressive in her C-D victory a week back. She will attempt to recover from her last-place finish in the 4th leg of the Santa Ana series.

Pine Needles should not be discounted, too, because the 3-year-old bay filly just landed third behind Wild Orchid and Real Spicy in the Grand Derby last week.

The Dilema brothers, Pat and Val, will mount Sound Offer and Pine Needles, respectively.

Backed by the Philracom and Philippine Racing Club, the Sta. Lucia Cup rewards P300,000 to the first placer.

Import Neat Laurel turned back veteran local galloper Lyonnais to capture last year's 4th edition.

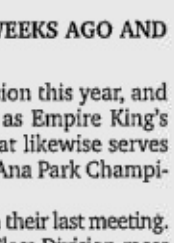
RACING

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1-1. Pilgrim 2. Beatitudes 3. Ocean Dignity 4. Anig Seaman
Race 2-1. Michael Da Dragon 2. Golden Link 3. Chariot of Fire 4. Huahinee
Race 3-1. Miss Vicky 2. Starsky and Hutch 3. Simply Gold 4. Kiwi Rose
Race 4-1. Yanong Rikit 2. Lady Beware 3. Liar 4. Head Turner
Race 5-1. Moab 2. Kalmia 3. Tiger Song
Race 6-1. Shadowfax 2. U Are My Sunshine 3. Last Hazm 4. Super Wind
Race 7-1. Empire King 2. Speed Advantage 3. Sound Offer
Race 8-1. Friendly Venture 2. Lord Brian 3. Queen's Abbey 4. Bunker Buster 5. Native Prince
Race 9-1. Tell Henry 2. Gigi's Gold 3. Open Sky 4. Expediter
Race 10-1. Marque 2. Vickyval 3. Slatkis 4. Trieste
Race 11-1. Money Maker 2. Centra 3. Formidable Jaeda 4. Solo Singer/Shaq Fanatsy 5. Real Material
Race 12-1. Hurry Prince 2. Fancy Dancer 3. Simply Strong 4. Selectee
Race 13-1. Worth Ur While 2. El Love Señora 3. Hale and Hearty/Taste of Magic 4. Queen's Gold 5. Best in Class 6. Banknot

History repeating itself

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN.

I refer to the resounding response of PBA fans, attendance-wise, when Asia's first play-for-pay league opened a while back.

The opening day itself had a sellout crowd. The long wait had the fans yearning for the loop's return. So, when the show was back, the fans came in droves.

To the delight of league officials and, of course, Commissioner Eala himself, the trend continued.

It helped that tickets to the bleachers and portions of the upper box were cut to an amazing five pesos.

I say that was incredible, if not cute.

In these times when vehicle window shades are the only things left we see getting lowered every day, it's such a relief to see PBA tickets slashed to an unimaginable record low of five bucks.

My, aren't jeepney and bus fares pegged at a minimum P7.50? That's P2.50 more than the PBA's general admission ticket price.

Any which way you look at it, it is simply unthinkable that ticket prices have gone that low.

Either our standard of living has hit rock-bottom or Commissioner Eala has this boundless love for our PBA fans that he is more than willing to sacrifice earnings for the sheer pleasure of PBA aficionados.

Whatever, here's a glass to Commissioner Eala and our PBA governors. Certainly, they deserve our applause for this unprecedented move of even surpassing the cost of a jeepney seat if only to prove that league owners always put premium on the financial standing of PBA fans.

Thus, it is no longer unusual to see a PBA fan forego riding a jeepney for home if he lives near the Big Dome, Ynares Center or Cuneta Astrodome. Shelling out five bucks for a PBA twinbill, one can happily realize a saving of P2.50. These days, every penny matters.

You save some money, and you even do your heart a favor when you watch the PBA games live: A walk from Cubao to your place of residence, say in Crame or Murphy, in Aurora Blvd. or New York along Edsa, is good for the heart.

But one reason, too, why the fans are back is Kris Aquino, the famed actress.

Stars of TV and the silver screen like Kris Aquino are automatic magnets. They attract people that's why each time Kris watches her boyfriend (James Yap of Purefoods) play live, expect droves of fans trooping to the arena of battle.

As if interconnected, the majority of our PBA fans are followers of celluloid stars. The PBA is show biz, in case you've forgotten.

Didn't Leo Prieto, the league's founding commissioner, say it himself?

"The PBA is entertainment," dear Leo said 30 years ago.

That rang true in 1975. That still rings true today.

Back in the olden days when a bottle of beer cost five bucks, movie stars had also graced PBA games.

Atoy Co, the Crispa star, had Alona Alegre, a sexpot herself in the '70s.

Rudy Soriano, Atoy Co's teammate, had Elizabeth Oropesa, the ravishing beauty from Bicol.

Manny Paner, one of the most powerful centers San Miguel Beer has ever had, married Daisy Romualdez, the movie sweetheart of the Sixties.

And Estoy Estrada, the prolific Beerman with his own unique version of pirouette shots, had always Rosemarie Gil in tow in the PBA of the Seventies.

Movie personalities have this built-in appeal that they can really do a lot of good to any show, especially the one that needs to be sustained for a period of time. Like the PBA.

Should Commissioner Eala, or the PBA board maybe, would consider providing special seats for them in any game of the year, I'd consider that as not a bad idea.

Even honey shots at them on TV elicit special reaction from viewers as they add dimension to their presence at the arena.

I'm glad that the league's latent show biz appeal is back.

And, of course, I'm all the more gladdened when I think of the move to drastically cut ticket prices down. What clearer proof of the league's care and concern for its fans than that?

I raise a glass to humility.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Espiritu Cup to benefit students

FUNDS THAT WILL BE GENERATED FROM THE staging of the first Ambassador Edgardo B. Espiritu Golf Cup on Nov. 14 at the Manila Golf Club will finance the scholarships of poor but deserving students of the University of the Philippines, according to the organizing Upsilon Sigma Phi through its Upsilon Foundation Inc.

Golfing executives and officials of the country's top private and government corporations and the regular players of the 22-year-old Upsilonians *na* Pumapalo are expected to see action in the event honoring the former finance secretary and current Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland.

For details, contact Michael S. Montemayor, chair of the executive committee, at 0920-9619123 and 807-7950/807-9239 or email at montem@attglobal.net.

ARCHERS ARE CHAMPS: LSGH High School won the overall team championship, the high school team championship and high school division championship in the recent 5th Samsung Interscholastics at Valley Golf in Antipolo. The team is composed of (third from left) team captain and HS division champion Marco Olives, overall individual champion Miko Yee, Alan Guy, Carlos Fonacier and Marvin Mendoza. LSGH Grade School I of team captain Francis Marquez, 1st runner-up Miggy Yee, 2nd runner-up AR Ramos, JP de Claro and Sam Salcedo also won their division. Team Manager is Raymund Atendido (2nd from left) representing Silverde Batch '79 and coach Emil Afable.

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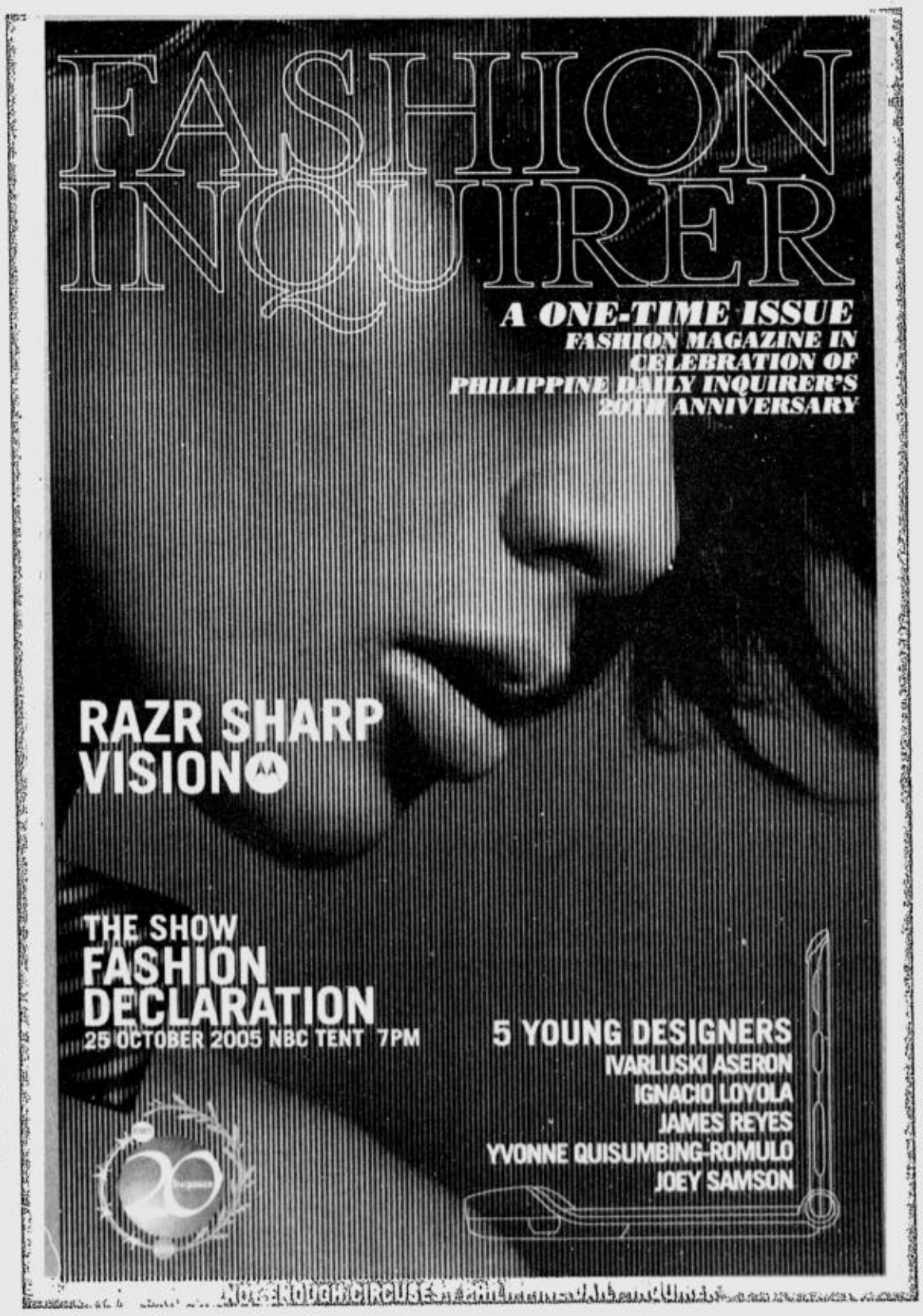

WORLD SERIES

Stubbly Rocket faces the bubbly White Sox

CHICAGO—ROGER CLEMENS IS the old stubbly face in a World Series filled with bubbly newcomers.

The pitcher has had more farewell seasons than the Houston Astros and Chicago White Sox have World Series titles, more awards than every other player on both rosters combined. And on Saturday, the 43-year-old Rocket will start for the Astros in his hometown team's World Series debut, opposed by former Yankees teammate Jose Contreras.

"It gets you really amped up again," he said before Friday's workout. "I'm excited about it. I ponder to myself this could be my last couple of starts—or your last one."

When last seen on the World Series stage, he exited to more popping strobes than a supermodel. Even opposing players applauded during 2003's Game 4 in Miami when he came out of the New York Yankees' extra-inning loss to the Florida Marlins.

"I wasn't ready for all the flashes," Clemens said.

But that wasn't the end.

If Houston winds up winning this World Series, the best was yet to come.

While this is his sixth Series, Saturday will be the first time he's pitched an opener.

"It comes with a lot of responsibility," he said, sounding as if he was carrying the entire state of Texas on his broad back. "I know that so many people are counting on me, and I enjoy that. I expect it, but it's the career I've led. So here we go again."

He wore a three-piece striped suit when he walked into the visitor's clubhouse, several days of beard growth darkening his face. In the locker between his and Andy Pettitte's, already dressed in an Astros' uniform, was 18-year-old Koby Clemens, his oldest son, who followed his dad around like a duck trailing a parent on a pond.

"It kind of gives me the old feeling back in the Yankees' days," Koby said. "The atmosphere in the clubhouse is awesome. It's even better in the hometown."

Born 46 days after his father made his World Series debut with the 1986 Boston Red Sox, Koby signed with the Astros in July.

REUTERS

CLEMENS: Best may yet be coming.

While Clemens said in 2003 that his career was over, the decision by Pettitte to sign with the Astros that year sparked him to come out of retirement to pitch alongside his buddy. He's improved with age.

He won his seventh Cy Young Award in 2004, when Houston came a win short of reaching the World Series—Clemens lost Game 7 at St. Louis. *AP*

REUTERS

TIGER Woods will finish his second round Saturday, needing two birdies to make the cut.

Disney golf losing shine

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA—MOMENTS after the Funai Classic at Disney was suspended because of storms on Friday, Tiger Woods unleashed his fury. He reared back and spiked his golf ball onto the cart path in front of the 17th green, sending it 20 feet in the air and into the pond.

Woods made a double bogey and a triple bogey in the same round for the first time since the 2000 US Masters, and he was on the verge of missing the cut for the second time this year.

Worse, the second round was called for the day, meaning Woods will have to return on Saturday with slim hopes of making the cut.

With 74 players at 6 under par or better—and 53 players still on the course—Woods was at 4 under and most likely needed two birdies to make the cut.

Woods also missed the cut at the Byron Nelson Championship in May, ending his US PGA Tour record of 142 consecutive cuts that spanned seven years.

And he might have company. Vijay Singh twice hit into the water on the sixth hole at the Palm course and shot 71 to finish at 4-under 140, virtually assured of missing the cut for the third time this year.

Singh missing the cut means Woods will clinch the tour money title for the sixth time in his career, ending Singh's two-year stay atop the money list. *AP*

PRESENTATION: Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco Jr., the Asian Executive Board member of the International Triathlon Union (ITU), presents the performance of the Asian Triathlon Confederation for 2005 together with the group's 2006 program for the sport. Listening are Australian representative Bryan Hinson, Europe's Gergely Markus and Africa's Liesboth Stoltz.

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3 DEUCE BIGALOW 10:50FS/11:00MF/12:45/02:30/04:15/06:00/07:45 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END
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MY Games National opens today

THE NEWLY REFURBISHED SAN ANDRES Sports and Civic Center in Malate plays host to the opening rites of the First Manila Youth Games (MY Games) National Invitational today.

Music, dances and festivity, coupled with Ati-Atihan drumbeats, a cultural performance by the Manila Dance Center, and a taekwondo demonstration will perk up the ceremonies ushering the first LGU-initiated multi-event competition for the country's top 17-under athletes.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Buhayin ang Maynila Task Force chief Kim Atienza will lead City Hall luminaries and representatives of the 897 barangays and six congressional districts of Manila in the ceremonies.

An estimated 2,500 athletes, including foreign participants, will gather for the kick off rites of the Games presented by Globe Telecoms and backed by Pagcor, San Miguel Corp., Milo, Red Bull, Philippine Airlines, Super Ferry, Land Bank, Unilever, Speedo, Isuzu Manila, IntrASports, and Concept MOVERS.

"Let this be an inspiration to the elders to involve their children in sports not for the sole reason that someday they would become sports heroes, but because sports and physical fitness play an important role in society," said Mayor Atienza.

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1 DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	4 LORD OF WAR 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
2 DOOM 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05	5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
3 SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:15 R3 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Oct 23 Sunday	AIR 21 vs STA LUCIA 4:10 pm RED BULL vs SAN MIGUEL 6:40 pm	Oct 26 Wed	COCA COLA vs PUREFOODS 4:40 pm GINEBRA vs TALK N TEXT 7:25 pm

CENTER EVENTS

PROMOS	*Ali Mall Food Gallery & Farmers Plaza Food Plaza* ***Lunch & Dinner Rush Promo*** *ongoing until November 14. Lunch for 2 for only P99 (10am - 1pm) & dinner for 2 for only P99 (7pm - 9pm)*
NEW STORES	***Girlshoppe*** *(Ground Floor) and* ***Options*** *(2nd Floor) at Ali Mall;* ***Blackbeard's Seafood Island*** *at Shopwise Arcade*

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2 (DOLBY)	DOOM R13
3 (DOLBY)	DEUCE BIGALOW 2 R13
4 (DOLBY)	40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13
SUPER PREMIERE	
(DOLBY)	WALLACE & GROMIT GP

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1 (DTS)	DOOM
2 (SDDS)	LORD OF WAR
3 (DTS)	WALLACE & GROMIT
4 (GOLD DTS)	40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
5 (GOLD DOLBY)	DOOM
6 (GOLD SDDS)	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
7	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
8 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUBAI
9 (DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2
10 (DOLBY)	TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

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1 (DOLBY)	DOOM
2 (DOLBY)	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
3 (DOLBY)	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 (DOLBY)	40-YEAR OLD VIRGIN

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
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1	DOOM
2	WALLACE & GROMIT
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2
4	DEUCE BIGALOW-2

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MARIKINA
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1 (DOLBY)	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
2 (DOLBY)	DOOM
3	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 (DOLBY)	DUBAI

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1 (DOLBY)	DOOM
2	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2
4	CINE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
5	INTO THE BLUE

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1	DUBAI
2 (DTS)	LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	INTO THE BLUE
4	DEUCE BIGALOW-2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(BINAN) tel. (049) 4111146

1	DUBAI
2 (DOLBY)	INTO THE BLUE
3 (DTS)	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
4	LAND OF THE DEAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
2	DUBAI
3 (DOLBY)	LAND OF THE DEAD

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1	THE BROTHERS GRIMM
2	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
3 (DOLBY)	DUBAI
4 (DTS)	INTO THE BLUE

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1	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
2	PERFECT CATCH
3 (DOLBY)	DUBAI

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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	MASAHISTA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	DOOM
5	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL

Mandaluyong
MANDA THEATRE
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RESERVED
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3	RED EYE
4	INTO THE BLUE

Masagana CINEMA
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1	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2	DOOM
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS-2

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1	SOUND OF THUNDER
2	DEUCE BIGALOW-2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PERFECT CATCH
2	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
3 (DTS EX)	LORD OF WAR
4	THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MEDALLION
2	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
3	MASAHISTA
4 (DTS)	DISKARTE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLADE OF THE ROSE
2	LIGAYA
3 (DTS)	INTO THE BLUE
4	DUBAI
5	LAND OF THE DEAD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
2	DUBAI
3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF WAR
4 (DTS)	PERFECT CATCH

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
2	DUBAI
3 (DOLBY)	DEUCE BIGALOW-2
4 (DTS)	BLADE OF THE ROSE

Fiesta World Mall
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1	LORD OF WAR
2	THE TRANSPORTER-2
3	SOUND OF THUNDER
4	DUBAI

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1	DUBAI
2	MASAHISTA
3	ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4	DOOM
5 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
6	RESERVED

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1	NAGDADALAGA
2	SOUND OF THUNDER

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Bautista fight on TV today

THE EXHAUSTING toe-to-toe battle between Filipino boxer Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista and South African Vuyisile Bebe will be the main feature of Ginebra San Miguel's Ringside TV Boxing today from 3-4 p.m. on ABC 5.

Presented by Galorde Enterprises Inc., and ABC 5, with supports from PCSO, the 12-round encounter which took place at the Mandaue Sports Complex in Cebu early this year, was for the WBO Asia Pacific bantamweight championship.

It was Bautista's first defense of the WBO Aspac crown he won against Saensak Singmanasak of Thailand last year.

The fight will also be shown in the US, Canada and Japan through Mabuhay Channel.

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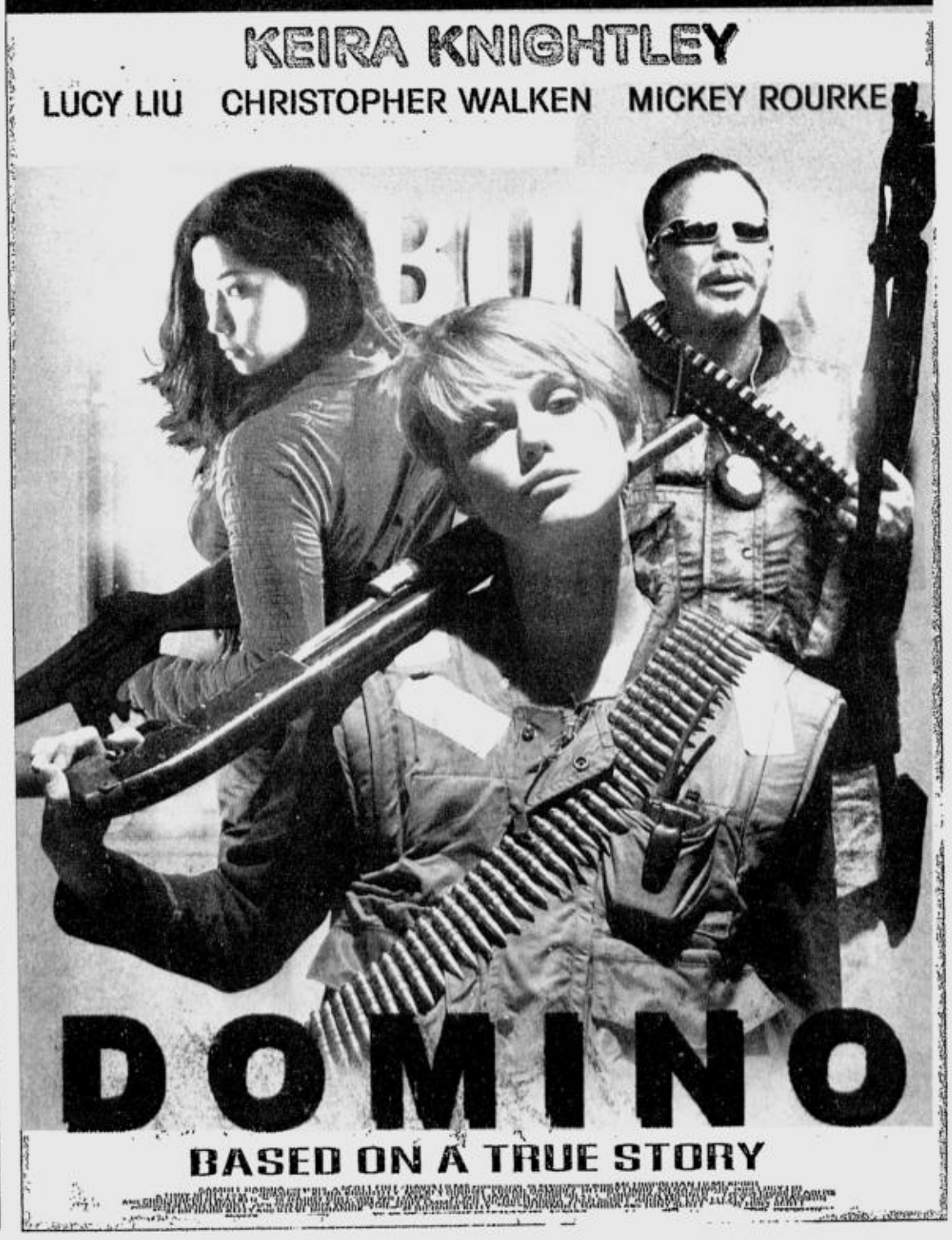

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 TRANSPORTER 2 • THX
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

3 LORD OF WAR
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 MASAHISTA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00

7 WALLACE AND GROMIT
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 DOOM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 INTO THE BLUE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 DOOM
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

2 MASAHISTA
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10 10:00

3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

4 LORD OF WAR
10:10 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00

5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
10:30 12:15 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

6 ILUSYON 11:00 1:10 3:20
MATTHEW, MARK , LUKE AND JOHN
5:50 7:50 9:50

7 THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8183 / 682-8188

1 LORD OF WAR
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:05

2 DOOM
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

5 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:20

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

7 WALLACE AND GROMIT
1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

8 MASAHISTA
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES [illegible]

1 LORD OF WAR
2 WILD SIDE
3 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL

3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 MASAHISTA
5 DOOM

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2570 PIONEER [illegible]

1 LORD OF WAR
2 MASAHISTA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
2 DOOM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 LORD OF WAR

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Jose Manalo • Gladys Guevarra
Wally • BJ (Tolits)
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October 26

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October 26

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1 INTO THE BLUE
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 LORD OF WAR
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE

1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

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1 DOOM
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 MASAHISTA
4 LORD OF WAR

1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 UNDISCOVERED
4 LORD OF WAR

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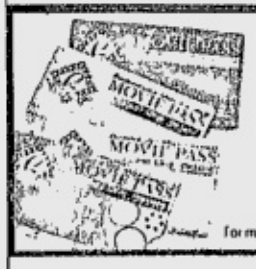
1 LORD OF WAR
2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 MASAHISTA
5 DOOM

1 PERFECT CATCH
2 MASAHISTA
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 UNDISCOVERED
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 LORD OF WAR

BACOLOD (034) 710-0463 (034) 710-0464 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE DESCENT
3 LORD OF WAR
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
6 UNDISCOVERED

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2



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THX

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 DOOM	3 DUBAI	4 MASAHISTA
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	3 THX THE 40 YEAR-OLD-VIRGIN 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUTHER	5 WALLACE & GROMIT/ INTO THE BLUE	6 DOOM	7 LORD OF WAR
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 DOOM 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45		2 CINEMANILA For more details call, 750-4180 TO 81	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE 40 YEAR-OLD-VIRGIN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX DOOM 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LORD OF WAR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DEUCE BIGALOW 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DOOM		2 THE 40 YEAR-OLD-VIRGIN	
	3 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	4 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	5 LORD OF WAR	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DOOM	2 TRANSPORTER 2	3 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	4 ONE MISSED CALL 2

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5. DUBAI

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Trick or Treat at the Cinemas

Moviegoers on October 22, 23, 29 and 30 will receive a free treat for every movie ticket purchased.*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday SPORTS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2005

Weightlifters lean but mean

A LEAN BUT MEAN CONTINGENT COMPRISE the Philippine weightlifting team to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Weightlifting association secretary-general Danilo Catingub is not about to make a prediction as to how many gold medals the Filipino lifters would win in the biennial meet slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

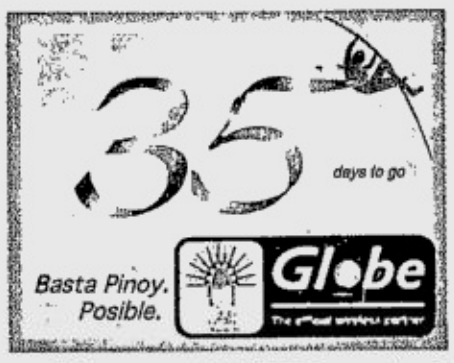
But he did guarantee the 13 RP bets seeing action in 10 events are capable of pulling a surprise.

"What can you expect in 13 athletes?" said Catingub. "But I'm confident, despite having only few weightlifters in our lineup, we can make a surprise in the biennial meet."

During the 2003 Vietnam SEA Games, the RP weightlifters took home a bronze medal courtesy of Alvin Delos Santos in the 94+ men's category.

"We must have more than 20 athletes because the other countries have 25 or more. So it's very hard for us to make an advantage, but I'm not losing faith to our weightlifters. I know we're not going to end this event empty-handed," Catingub added.

The men's team is composed of delos Santos, Daniel Siting, Christopher Bureros, Alfonsito Aldanete, Renante Briones and Jomar Napoloreyes.



Tañamor, 2 other RP boxers sure of medals

TAMPERE, FINLAND—TEAM PHILIPPINES started their campaign in the 26th International Tammer Tournament with a bang in the Pyynikki Sports Hall by advancing three of its five boxers to the medal rounds.

Harry Tañamor, Warlito Parrenas and Joan Tipon beat their foes in the preliminary rounds to move on to the semi finals.

Tañamor beat a Moroccan on points while Parrenas outscored a gutsy and game Scot. Tipon, adjudged the best boxer in the recent Asian Boxing Championships, on the other hand, danced to victory against a tough Nigerian.

This ranking tournament attracted 113 boxers from 19 countries. The tournament is being run and headed by Welshman Terry Smith. Tañamor will meet Smith's compatriot in the semis.

Two other Filipinos, Joegen Ladon and Mark Jason Melligen, play against hometown Finnish favorites. RP team officials are not worried fighting against Finns but against the Welsh due to the imposing figure of chief Jury Smith. Ladon and Melligen are playing for the quarterfinal rounds.

This competition will hone prospective SEA Games candidates and still forms part of their elimination process. The trip is sponsored by the FG Foundation, Ginebra San Miguel, PSC, Pacific Heights and Accel.

Pacquiao mum on fight tactics

LET'S KEEP EVERYTHING A SECRET THIS TIME.

This was the request of Filipino boxing star Manny Pacquiao who is gearing up for a rematch with Mexican tormentor Erik Morales early next year.

From a billiard joint, Pacquiao joined a group of sportswriters in a Japanese restaurant in Malate who requested for an update on his projected multi-million dollar fight with Morales in Las Vegas on Jan. 21.

"Ayoko munang magsalita, baka malaman ng kalaban ang plano (I don't want to talk about it yet, the other camp might know our plans)," said Pacquiao, who is reportedly going to receive $2 million for the rematch. "Silent *lang tayo.*"

What the champ announced was his scheduled departure on Nov. 11 for Los Angeles to conduct a publicity blitz for the second Pacquiao-Morales bout that will take him to Texas, Las Vegas, New York and Mexico.

"Maikli lang yung stay ko doon pero pag balik ko kasama ko na si Freddie Roach (It's going to be just a short stay, but I'll be coming back with Freddie Roach)," said the 26-year-old boxing superstar.

Pacquiao said his training will officially begin when he and his trainer Roach arrive here on the second week of next month. He didn't say when they will leave for the United States for the fight.

Apparently, Pacquiao wants to keep his cards close to his chest regarding his buildup for Morales, who won their March 19 fight by unanimous decision at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Before the fight, Pacquiao's major battle plans became too accessible to the public even as Morales quietly sharpened his skills and proved too wily for the Filipino fighter.

Pacquiao, warming up for the Morales rematch, stopped Hector Velasquez in the sixth round of their fight last Sept. 10 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Espinosa boxing moved to Nov. 5

THE "FIGHT FOR LOVE" CHARITY BOXING event intended to raise funds for former two-time world champion Luisito Espinosa has been moved to Nov. 5 at the San Andres Civic and Sports Center in Manila.

The San Andres Civic and Sports Center will be unavailable on Oct. 29, the date originally set for the event, because it will be used for the Manila Youth Games.

The event, promoted by North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, will feature bouts for the Philippine lightweight championship and the Philippine Jr. bantamweight crown.

Organizers cooked up the event in the hopes of raising enough cash to fund Espinosa's legal battle to collect his purse from a world title fight nine years ago.

Philippine lightweight king Fernando Montilla will defend his title against the hard-hitting Dexter "Dinamita" Delada of Cebu City in the main event.

The main supporting bout will pit junior bantamweight titlist Eric Barcelona of Bukidnon and former miniflyweight champion Celso Danggod.

Other bouts will feature young boxing stars from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Top RP netters tangle in Subic

THE BEST THAT PHILIPPINE TENNIS CAN offer converge and trade shots as the Cebuana Lhuillier-sponsored Subic Bay Invitational unwraps on Nov. 8-12 at the Subic Bay International Center hardcourts.

Davis Cupper Patrick John Tierro, the country's number one netter, leads the cast in the tournament also supported by Lhuillier Group of Companies—Le Soleil, Oceanic and the Sports Event and Entertainment Management, Inc.

The country's top 16 netters will see action in the unique tournament which will also features the men's interclub.

Also competing are Johnny Arcilla, who will join Tierro in the RP team to the SEAG, Rolando Ruel, Chiemil Mantua, Adelo Abadia, Elbert Anasta, Alexander Lazaro, Jesse Lapore, Yannick Guba, Rocky Paglalunan, Ralph Barte, Miguel Narvaez, Pablo Olivarez, Kyle Dandan and Nico Riego de Dios.

Competing for the lone wildcard slot are Eric Morgan, John Moreno, Richie Cunanan, Beeyong Sison, Francis Factura, Lorenzo Sison, Ryan Daza, Roman Floreza, Riel Floreza and Mikko Rivero.

ENTERTAINMENT
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Paolo's big 'bounce'

He's 'the victim' in the estafa case, the TV host insists

BEDIONES: "This is really a hassle." JIMMY DY

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THIS CASE WOULD SOON BE resolved. She has nothing against me. I'm a victim, too," declared TV host Paolo Bediones, who was charged with estafa for allegedly issuing two bouncing checks to a businesswoman last month.

Businesswoman Rochelle Romero filed an estafa case in September against Paolo and another entrepreneur, Nolita Mendoza, before the Pasig Regional Trial Court for violation of Batas Pambansa 22 or the anti-bouncing check law.

Mendoza handed Romero two checks as payment for a debt reportedly worth more than P130,000. The two checks—one from PS Bank and another from Equitable-PCI Bank—bear Paolo's signature.

The TV host has denied issuing the checks.

On Monday, Paolo submitted before the Pasig RTC specimen signatures and documents certifying that he did not have accounts with PS Bank and Equitable-PCI Bank.

"The fiscal knows I'm innocent, but he needs evidence," Paolo told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Friday. "This is really a hassle. I can't imagine how many celebrities went through the same thing. It's the responsibility of the recipient to find out where the check came from."

He added: "I didn't even get an apology (from Romero) for the inconvenience. My co-respondent (Mendoza) didn't want to talk to me. What's good about what happened was that I met new people, especially at the Pasig RTC. Now, I know what to do."

Meanwhile, Paolo said he was set to sue a company for using his image without permission.

"I think (this company) should pay up. It used me as an endorser without my knowledge," he told entertainment writers in a press conference for the Grand Kapuso Day in Davao City last week. "We recently sent a demand letter. If this establishment does not act on this abuse, I will make noise. This won't be good for the company because many people depend on it."

Aside from hosting two top-rating shows on GMA 7 ("Extra Challenge" and "S-Files"), Paolo is also busy with his newly opened dental center, Esthetica, in Libis, Quezon City.

It was while his clinic was being constructed that Paolo met his new girlfriend. "She's a dentist," Paolo shared. "We've been together for two months now. We make a good pair. She's not at all intimidated with my being in show biz. She has no problem with my busy schedule."

Paolo and the whole "Extra Challenge" crew just returned on Friday from a trip to Egypt, where they taped an episode featuring Richard Gomez, Joey Marquez, Jen Rosendahl and Francine Prieto. It would be aired in three weeks."

VINCE Vaughn

JENNIFER Aniston

Brangelina vs Vinnifer

NEW YORK—DOES VINNIFER HAVE THE SAME ring to it as Brangelina?

Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn were photographed kissing, possibly confirming that their relationship has grown romantic. People magazine published the photos, taken last week in Chicago, in its Oct. 31 issue, on newsstands yesterday.

Reports have swirled for months that the two actors were an item. Previously, though, it was impossible to separate fiction from reality since they were at work filming "The Break Up." This time, the co-stars were without a film crew while they spent several days together in Chicago.

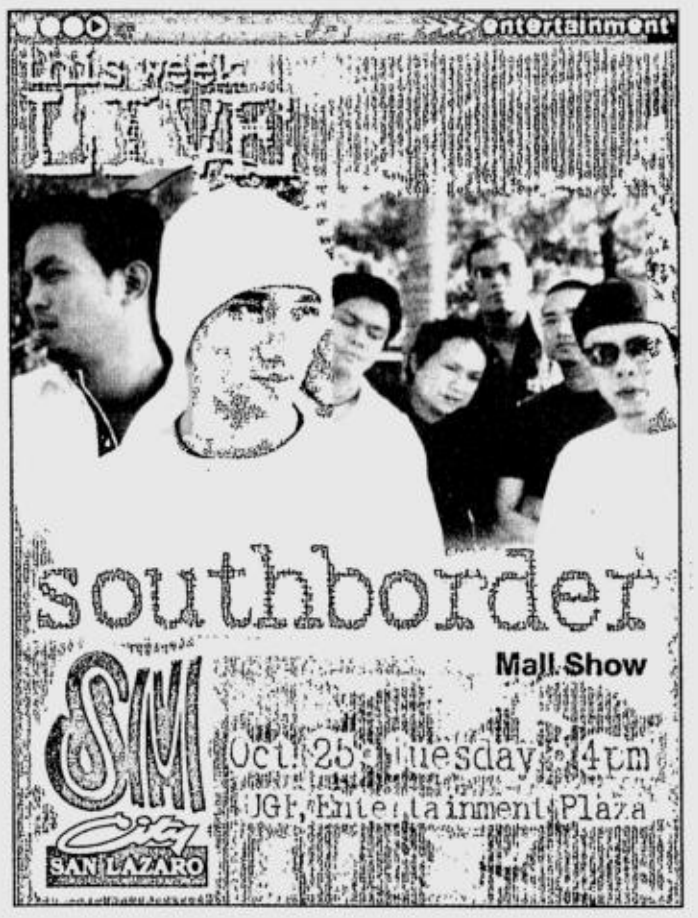
A call to Aniston's publicist was not immediately returned.

Her divorce from Brad Pitt became final Oct. 2, concluding 4 1/2 years of marriage.

Vaughn co-starred earlier this year with Pitt and Angelina Jolie in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith." It was then that reports of a romance between Pitt and Jolie began, which were later corroborated by photographs and public spottings.

In interviews, Aniston, 36, has denied a relationship with Vaughn, 35. In this month's Elle, she said, "He's delicious and funny... but I don't want to be a rebound girl."

Last month, she said on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that she was ready to date again. *AP*



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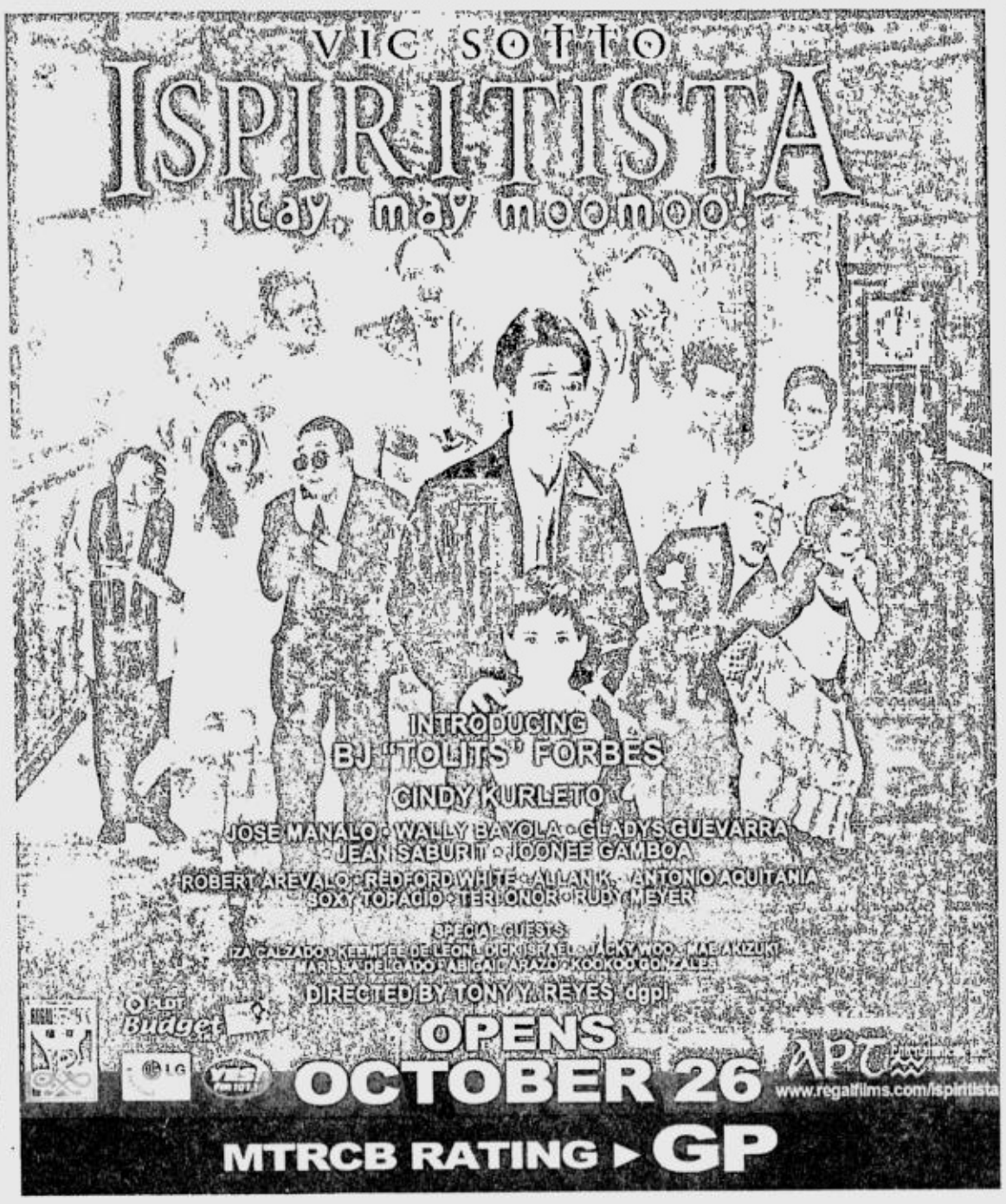

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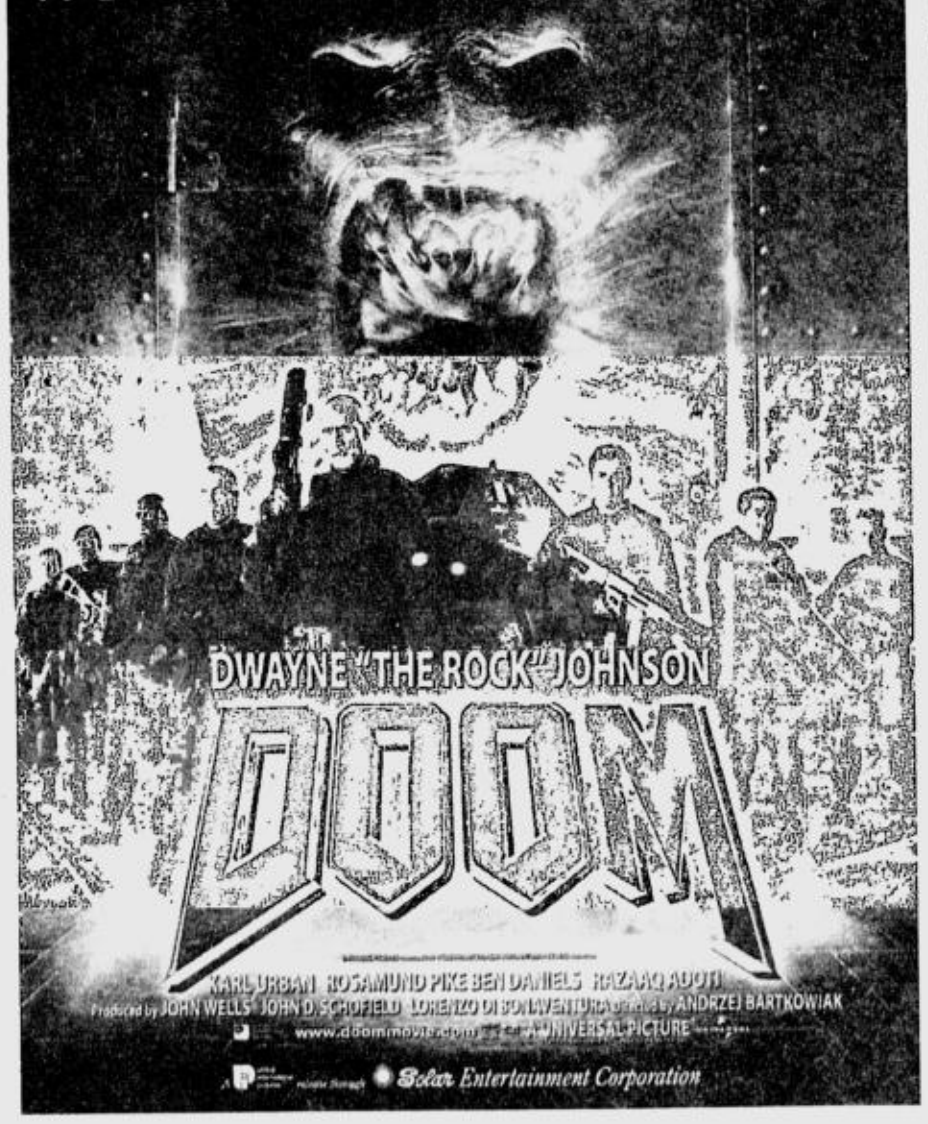

2ND WEEK

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SUNG BOK KIM HO-SIK KIM & JAE-YOUNG KWAK GEON-SEOB PARK CHUL SHIN JAE-YOUNG KWAK

Lea's on the way, Yam's on the rise and Catherine's at the top

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—NOW IT CAN BE TOLD: **Lea Salonga** was craving for fruits (cherries, I believe) when she was in Manila.

Our congratulations to **Lea** and husband **Robert Chien** on the announcement that the international star is pregnant. **Lea** is back in the US, shuttling between the two coasts as she prepares for two concerts: tonight (Oct. 23) at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts in the LA County and on Nov. 7 at the famed Carnegie Hall in New York. For the latter show, **Lea** will have no less than **Kevin Stites** as conductor of a 28-piece orchestra. **Kevin** just happens to be the musical director of **Oprah Winfrey**'s coming Broadway version of the movie "The Color Purple."

* * *

Our recent story on **Yam Laranas**' "Sigaw (The Echo)" getting a rave review in the LA Times resulted in a welcome phone call from **Yam** himself.

"Wow, *grabe*!" he exclaimed, describing his reaction to **Kevin Thomas**' review. **Yam** had just arrived from Manila for the fifth annual Screamfest Horror Film Festival and Screenplay Competition. The Mowelfund scholar was calling from his hotel room. The voice was young, eager and pleasant. "*Hindi ako makapaniwala. Akala ko may bawi sa dulo. E wala*(I couldn't believe it. I thought there was a catch in the end)!"

Below is **Yam**'s narration of the good breaks he is getting in Hollywood, culled from our phone and e-mail chats with the Davaoeño:

"The other week, **Rachel Belofsky** (Screamfest LA programmer) e-mailed me to say that **Kevin Thomas** loved 'Sigaw' and that the review will be out on Oct. 13, the day that I was going to arrive in LA. I was so thrilled but at the same time scared because you'll never know what a reviewer will write until you see it on print.

"... I opened the Times like a little boy opening a Christmas present. And there it was! The words 'master' and 'stunner' stunned me! I wanted to kiss and hug everybody in the hotel, including the bell hop.

"I was so thrilled. I wanted to scream and wished that my wife and my one-year-old **Elki** were with me... **Roy Lee** of Vertigo Entertainment (producer of 'The Ring' 1 and 2 and 'The Grudge' remakes) is the person who opened that door in Hollywood for me. He loved 'Sigaw' and saw the potential of the film for a Hollywood remake. We have been in contact since January this year. It has been a non-stop discussion of the possibilities. **Roy** was also instrumental in my ICM (International Creative Management) signing. He is now (together with fellow producer **Shin Shimosawa**) setting up a remake of 'Sigaw' with New Line Cinema.

"The executive who sat with **Roy** and **Shin** at the screening/pitch wants to do it, with me possibly directing it. Together with them was a reporter from the LA Times who 'covered' the screening and will come up with a 'behind-the-scenes' story of how **Roy** is setting up 'The Echo' with New Line. That writer is now also a fan of the movie. **Roy** e-mailed me to say, '"I think you will be happy with the next LA Times story that will appear. The reporter also loved your movie.' The buzz is heating up."

YAM Laranas JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

We met **Yam**, an intense and articulate man, **Iza Calzado** and **Manet Dayrit** ('Sigaw' editor) last Wednesday evening when "Sigaw" premiered in the US as a competing entry in the Screamfest. **Yam**'s sleepless nights culminated in this memorable moment at the Universal Studios Cinemas when he was introduced and spoke briefly about the film before the lights went down for the screening. The audience broke into applause when the movie ended.

* * *

PREGGY Lea in the musical "Baby."

When I recently told **Catherine Zeta-Jones** that she looks absolutely beautiful in her second Zorro movie, "The Legend of Zorro," she smiled, looked at me with those eyes and quipped in that husky voice, "Thank you very much. But I'm already married (laughter). That's what my husband said the first time around. Look what happened."

Of course, I didn't mean to snatch **Catherine** from her husband, **Michael Douglas**. I was just giving the lady a compliment. Besides, sorry, **Catherine**, but I'm happily married myself to lovely **Janet**.

In "The Legend of Zorro," **Catherine** is reunited with **Antonio Banderas** seven years after their blockbuster "The Mask of Zorro." I asked the Welsh actress how different it was this time around making a movie with **Antonio**.

"It was like revisiting an old friend," **Catherine** said. "The (first) movie holds such a special place in my heart because it was a break-out movie (for me). It was the movie that made people put a name to my face. The film also paved the way for me to meet my husband in the Deauville Film Festival where I was promoting the movie. Seven years later, **Antonio** and I get to do it all again. Since that time, **Antonio** enjoyed years of parenting. **Stella**, his baby with **Melanie (Griffith)**, was just born when we did the first one. I became a mother as well.

The movie's story parallels that in a way."

She claimed that she did not expect the kind of breaks that the first "Zorro" movie opened up for her—in a matter of seven years, she won an Oscar for the movie "Chicago," zoomed to the top, married **Michael** and had two kids.

"I thought it was going to be a good movie," she said. "[But] I didn't expect what it would do for me."

As for what surprised her the most in her journey in the past seven years, **Catherine** volunteered, "I thought that if you are really focused on one thing in your life—like your career—you [would] have to forfeit certain things along the way, which I have done before. So to fall in love and meet my husband, have my two children and this kind of career, that's the biggest surprise to me. I never thought that I would be able to have both."

As for her own children, **Dylan Michael**, 5, and **Carys Zeta**, 2, **Catherine** said, "One of the beauties of living in Bermuda is that we are not hiding them. They're enjoying the outside world. They are not hounded. They certainly are not Hollywood brats by any stretch of the imagination. They're really good kids and they have the weirdest Bermudian accent. Very broad American sometimes and then very British other times so I love it. We just keep them grounded."

The kids have a legend for a grandfather—**Kirk Douglas**. But apparently, Spartacus prefers to be called "Pappy." Catherine told us about asking **Kirk**, "Why can't you just be called 'Grandfather' now?"

To this, **Kirk** said: "Spartacus can't be called Granddad (laughter). He's Pappy."

"Pappy is good," **Catherine** said with bemused resignation. "I call him Pappy from time to time. I'm allowed."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

ZETA-JONES on "The Legend of Zorro": It was like revisiting an old friend.

Learning from television

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

YES, MUCH OF TV IS BLAH AND A BOTHER, but some shows leave us with food for thought and action.

On ANC last week, a helpful and insightful discussion on terrorism in this part of the world gave viewers a comprehensive view of the problem that has eluded many of us for a long time.

With **Maria Ressa**'s expert observations (from her years of experience as CNN's Indonesia bureau chief), the discussion helped viewers get a handle on the complex issue of terrorism in Asia, and what it portends for the immediate and long-range future.

Another eye-opening show we watched recently was a special documentary on stem-cell therapy. The documentary was truly special, because it went beyond abstract theory, and showed how the experimental use of stem cells on paraplegics helped them gain better use of their heretofore-paralyzed limbs.

Completely different in tone and approach, but similarly instructive in its own way was a new cable show titled "Facing Fame," which required a young woman to transform herself totally into **Britney Spears** and fool even **Britney**'s colleagues in the world of show business.

It was a tough challenge, but the **Britney** clone was able to pull it off. She only failed to convince some paparazzi who took photos of her at an event.

But even they were convinced by her looks—they only realized they were being duped when they didn't recognize the bodyguard who was with the fake **Britney**.

It appears that **Britney**'s bodyguard has become a celebrity in his own right so photographers keep an eye out for him as well!

In any case, the instructive aspect of the reality challenge show us that celebrity and star appeal can be copied and manufactured, and that show biz fans can be programmed to idolize non-stars, just because they have been expertly made over to look like the "real thing."

Finally, on the "Today" show on the ETC Channel last Thursday, experts shared tips on how to keep relationships strong, dynamic and harmonious on a long-term basis.

Basically, they advised couples to communicate honestly and objectively with each other so they could agree on how to deal with the five most central issues in any romantic relationship: money, sex, relatives and friends, how to bring up children and what they expect from life.

Relationships often fail because couples who are in love think that love and passion are enough, and will solve and salve all of the problems that will come their way. Wrong! Talk it out first, before the potential irritants consume the relationship itself, experts urge.

Kids' channel

Nickelodeon has vaulted ahead of all kid-focused channels to become the most widely distributed children's TV network in the world, with 28 channels reaching 198 million TV households in 81 territories.

In addition, Nickelodeon program blocks in 21 key markets like China, Russia and Indonesia, reach 122 million more TV households and extending to a total of 169 territories. Nick reached this milestone with its launch to 33 million TV households in Germany.

This has netted Nick 28 percent revenue growth internationally during the first half of 2005. Another milestone: In June 2005, Nickelodeon US recorded its 10th consecutive year as the No. 1 cable network on a total daily basis.

Mishka at Mati

Awit awardee **Mishka Adams** sang on Thursday (Oct. 20) at Mati at the Rockwell Power Plant Mall. She interpreted jazz favorites and songs from her upcoming album, "God Bless the Child."

'Everyday People'

HBO screens "Everyday People" at 5:45 p.m. tomorrow (Oct. 24). The intimate ensemble drama tells the interconnected stories of a group of racially diverse New Yorkers who rub elbows at an imperiled Brooklyn diner.

'Seoul Searching'

Discovery Channel features "Seoul Searching" on Oct. 26 at 11 p.m. All about the massive restoration of an ancient waterway which once ran through the heart of Seoul, Korea, connecting it to a vast mountain range at the outskirts of the city.

7th CINEMANILA International film festival

In cooperation with the City of Manila

SCREENINGS OCTOBER 23

Ayala Greenbelt 1	Clean 11:30am	President's Last Bang 2:00pm	Neighbor no. 13 4:30pm	Ab-normal Beauty 7:00pm	Tae Guk Gi 9:30pm

Please call the following cinemas for details and schedules:
Gotesco Cinema City 7356901 loc. 358, Isetan Cineworld 7334228,
Ayala Cinema (Greenbelt 1) 7297777

Schedules are subject to change without further notice.

Email: miff@cinemanila.com.ph • Website: www.cinemanila.com.ph

Ang masarap na kwento ni

Mama Sita

Pamanang Sarap sa Bawat Pamilya

Cinemanila controversies

Intrigues mar an international film festival

WINNERS ALL. Jorge Arago and Briccio Santos (Best Screenplay, "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre"), Ana Capri (Best Actress, "Ala Verde"), Tikoy Aguiluz, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, juror Jacob Wong, Solito, Vincent del Rosario and John Torres (Best Short Film, "Salat").

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao-Punzalan

CINEMANILA HAS COME A LONG WAY from its "struggling years," according to festival director Tikoy Aguiluz in his opening remarks at the awards night last Wednesday.

Seven years ago, the first Cinemanila film festival had only one moviehouse for its screenings and 600 people attending its awards night.

In contrast, this year's film fest boasted 17 moviehouses, P3 million in cash prizes and Aliw Theater's 2,700-seater venue on awards night.

"Cinemanila was born from a commitment to honor the past, present and future of filmmaking in the Philippines and the world," Aguiluz said.

However, the 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival was not spared from show biz intrigues.

Cinemanila was hit by controversy when director Auraeus Solito complained that his producer Viva Films had "disemboweled" and re-edited his entry "Tuli," after it was given an X by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and deemed "unratable" by the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB).

Eventually, director and producer patched things up.

AURAEUS Solito

"They were man enough to correct the situation," Solito told INQUIRER Entertainment days before the awards night.

"We gave him an 'international version' that he could screen abroad," said Vincent del Rosario, executive vice president of Viva Entertainment.

On awards night, Solito and Del Rosario shared the stage in accepting the Best Filipino Digital Film trophy and the P1.5 million prize.

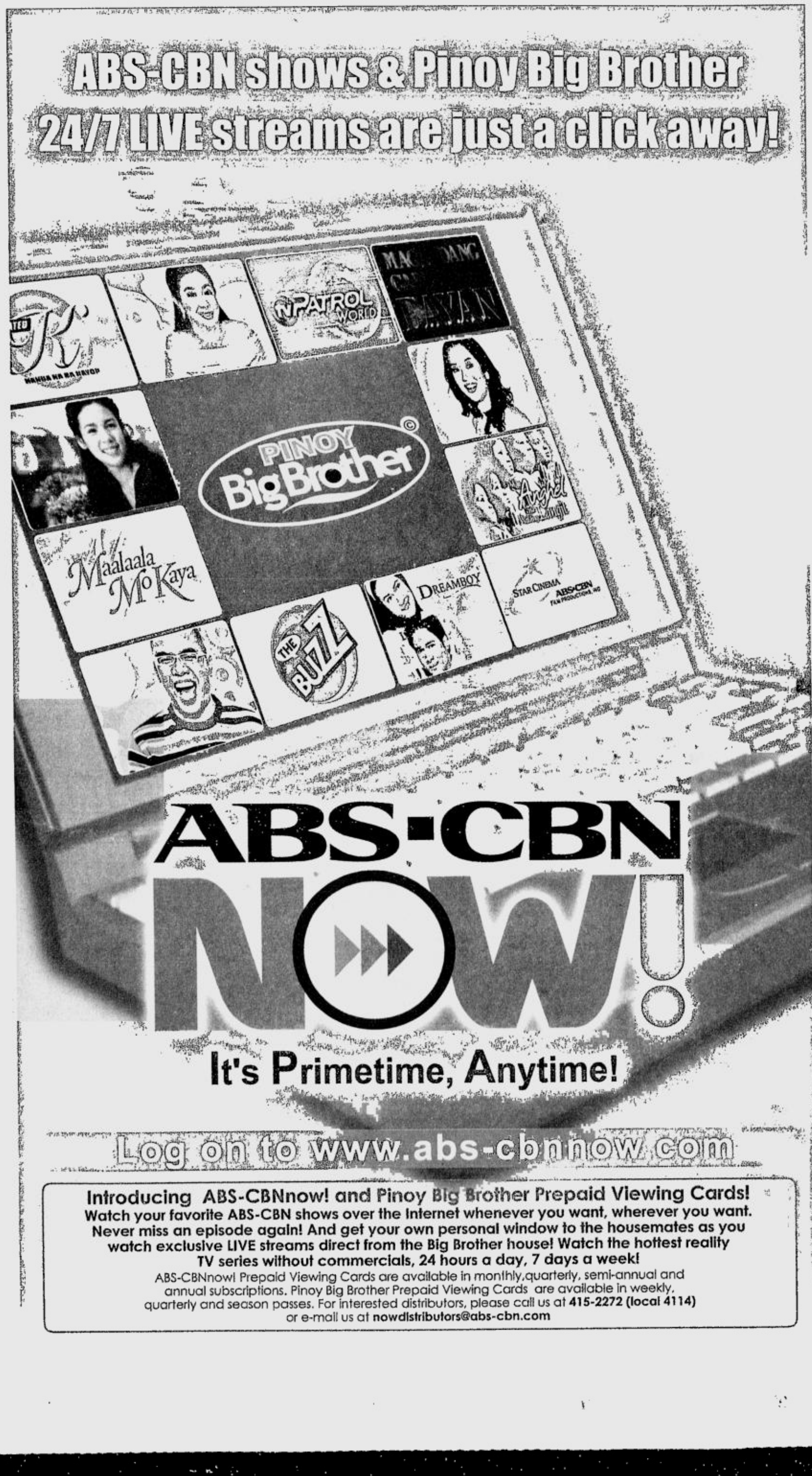
In his acceptance speech, Solito, who also won Best Digital Director, alluded to his recent debacle, saying: "[In future festivals,] we hope there'll be no censorship."

All's well that ends well?

Not really. As of press time, there were reports of other sectors protesting the outcome.

"We were surprised by the results, but we cannot do anything about it," said Paolo Villaluna, co-director of another digital film entry "Ilusyon," which went home empty-handed in spite of an A rating from the CEB.

"We'll let the local audience and critics judge for themselves. Nevertheless, we support Cinemanila and believe it's the only festival now that reminds the international film community that Philippine cinema still exists," he said.



OUR Bet. Miss Earth Philippines Gennebelle Raagas LYN RILLON

Who will be Miss Earth?

By Armin Adina

THE COUNTRY, THOUGH STILL HEADY from precious Lara Quigaman's win as Miss International, is in for another beauty pageant treat.

The 2005 Miss Earth will be crowned tonight at the UP Theater in Quezon City.

Last Monday, the top 15 swimsuit models were chosen from 80 contestants. The top 15 will compete for the Best in Swimsuit title-which will also be announced tonight.

The Manila-based pageant attracted a record number of candidates.

"We are happy and proud to have 80 delegates this year," said Ramon Monzon, president and CEO of Carousel Productions, pageant organizer. He said there were only 61 contestants last year.

Reigning Miss Earth Priscilla Meirelles of Brazil is very happy with the turnout. "It means the pageant is growing and Carousel is doing a good job," she said.

This is the last year the pageant will be held in the Philippines. Organizers confirmed that Chile will host the sixth Miss Earth pageant next year.

For the swimsuit competition, the candidates were grouped into three, touring different parts of the country. One group went to Subic, Pampanga and Baguio; another traveled to Southern Tagalog spots Batangas, Tagaytay, Pagsanjan and Cavite; and the last group explored Cebu and Bohol in the Visayas courtesy of SuperFerry.

Five ladies were selected from each group for the final swimsuit competition.

Ukraine's Yevgeniya Rudenko was one of the most applauded along with fellow Europeans Jovanna Marjanovic of Serbia and Montenegro, Tatiana Yamova of Russia and a Miss World 2004 finalist Katarzyna Borowicz of Poland.

The Latin and Caribbean delegation snatched seven slots. Amell Santana of the Dominican Republic, the only colored candidate to crack the Top 15, was also the tallest at 6-foot-1. Chile's Nataly Chilet received loud cheers from a huge Chilean delegation. They were joined by the fiercely competitive Alexandra Braun of Venezuela, Miss World veteran Cristina Reyes of Ecuador, Rosemary Suarez of Panama, Sara Paredes of Peru and Vanessa de Roide of Puerto Rico.

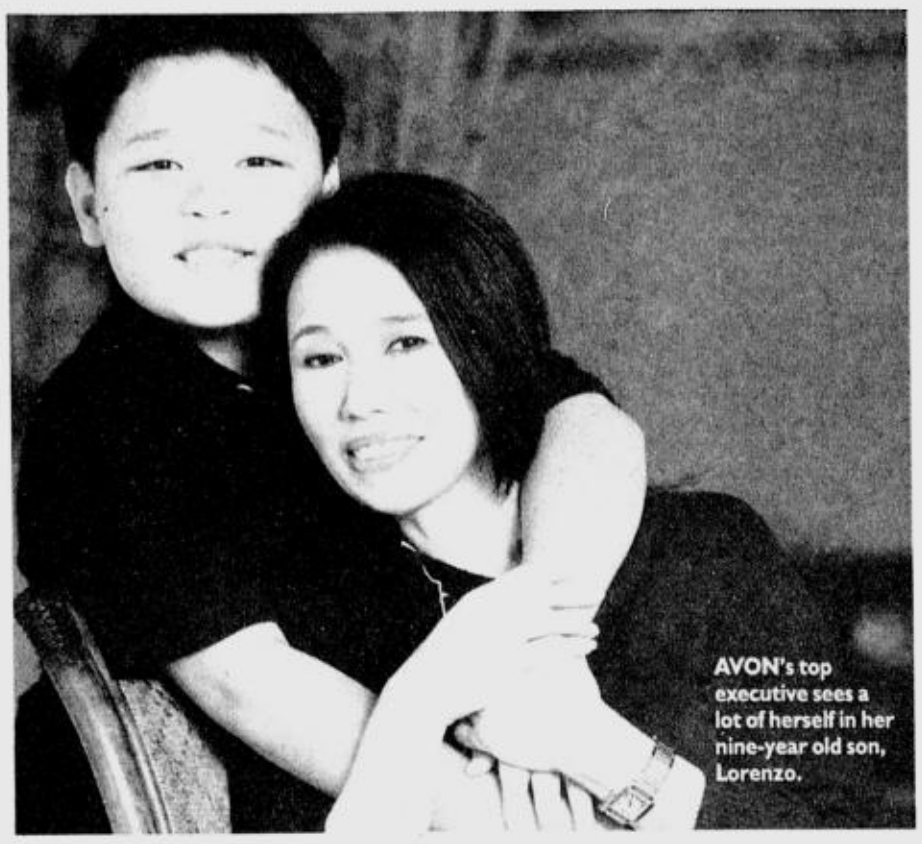
Miss Philippines-Earth Gennebelle Raagas showed that the country is still in contention this year together with Asians Li Yi Jia of China and Yu Hae-Mae of Korea.

Amanda Kimmel of the United States also displayed great form.

Organizers explained that Monday night's swimsuit competition would have no bearing on the outcome of the pageant, as there will be another round of selection before the coronation night.

The Miss Earth pageant is presented by Pond's Age Solution Early Defense. Watch the coronation tonight on ABS-CBN after "Pinoy Big Brother."

With a report from Camille Labayen



AVON's top executive sees a lot of herself in her nine-year old son, Lorenzo.

'Always think somebody is better, so you try harder'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE FIRST JOB INTERVIEW with Avon Philippines' top executive initially turned out to be a conversation among mothers on raising children.

Avon General Manager Ina Quiogue has one child—nine-year-old Lorenzo who is among the bright kids at the Ateneo de Manila University grade school. An earlier interview with husband Meckoy took an almost similar path when he talked a lot about Lorenzo.

Ina may have 400 people under her in the Philippines and about half a million Avon ladies but at the end of the day motherhood is the same whoever you are—you worry about your child's studies, his extra-curricular activities, his resilience ...

INA QUIOGUE has been with Avon for 17 years because something new always came along.

GRADUATING cum laude from UP.

FIRST JOB

The difference between Lorenzo and Ina is that she was not an only child. She is the third of five. And being the middle child did not give her the a complex—perhaps this was because she had a smart father.

Her dad made all the children believe he or she was his favorite. And the result was a successful brood which included sister Grace Castano, president of Johnson and Johnson Philippines.

But Ina adds her mother just focused on the two eldest children—making reviewers for them when they had to take tests. But when the younger children's time came, her mother became busy with work and no longer was as strict.

But perhaps leadership by example prevailed and Ina and the rest of the Del Rosario kids followed their two elder siblings.

Ina says one of her vivid memories during college was calling up her father because she failed a math exam. She says she kept crying over the phone.

"My father told me even if I failed it doesn't matter. That there is no problem that cannot be solved," Ina recalls.

And she delivers the same message to her son who is very competitive.

School was no problem and when she reached college she enrolled in Economics. But Ina found the course too boring and could not stand the thought of spending four years listening to laws of supply and demand.

At the start of her freshman year at the University of the Philippines, she had struck a friendship with former Sen. Loren Legarda who was pursuing a degree in Broadcast Communication.

Listening to her friend lament about her chosen course, Loren invited Ina to transfer to the Institute of Mass Communication (now College of Mass Communication). Ina followed her friend's advice and loved the course.

She says what she liked about the college was that the people were down to earth.

"You see people going to school in slippers and riding jeeps. Then you see someone being brought in a Benz. But when they get to school no one acts like he is more superior than the other. And they were so much fun to work with."

Graduation came soon enough and for P1,200 a month Ina worked as an account executive at Pacifica, then owned by Tony Zorilla.

"The salary was small—it was just enough to pay for my gas, repairs and maintenance of my car," she adds.

But she learned a valuable lesson in the agency—"it helped me understand how difficult it is to be an AE. So now when ad agencies come to me I try to be as clear and as human as possible." After a couple of years she once more joined friend Loren in another ad agency.

But she got pirated by Jordan Et Cie, the pioneer of RTW (ready to wear) clothes in the country. Brands of Jordan then were Jazzie, Anne Klein, Made in Heaven.

Ina recalls Jordan was among the first ones who got an endorser and they chose Gretchen Barretto for Made in Heaven.

The firm was very successful.

"It was a marketing services story. We made the store the place to be—serving cookies and drinks. We got the mailing list of villages and mailed them our catalogs," describes Ina who was Jordan's advertising and promotions manager.

But Jordan's success was shortlived. Most of its people left or were pirated. Ina was one of them.

One day in 1988, Ina got two job offers—in the morning she got a call from Cititrust, then the consumer banking arm of Citibank (which was later bought by Bank of Philippine Islands) and in the afternoon from Avon Philippines.

"There was no significance in the package offered but I was more interested in fashion," she says.

Fashion it was and she stayed. And reached the top.

From brand manager she became group category manager, then marketing manager of Avon Philippines in 1994. By 1996, she was marketing director, regional VP for marketing of Avon Asia Pacific and last year, was made the head of Avon Philippines.

Ina admits times are challenging because of the current economic state of the country. But she works hard, always thinking of the 400 people under her.

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Chinatown goes to Davao

By Germelina Lacorte
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—OVER 100 YEARS after the first known Chinese migrant Lim Chuan Jun found his way to this city, the Chinese-Filipino community is finally setting up a Chinatown here.

It will rise from a 43.3-hectare Santa Ana district where over 500 families of Chinese Filipinos live and do business, says Davao businessman William Go, president of the Chinese Filipino group Davao Kaisa movement.

"This is an area bustling with activities by day but a virtual ghost town at night," says Go, whose father Go Hong Liong left China to set foot in Cebu before the war, and later on opened a buy-and-sell business and settled in Davao.

"We plan to put up night markets and hold the major Chinese festivals here, so that the whole area bustles with life even after dark," says orthopedic surgeon Romeo Regner Du of the Davao Chinatown Development Council.

The Davao Chinatown will be the country's second Chinatown to rise after Binondo in Manila.

It will have a Chinese museum, Chinese restaurants, and later on include areas in the city where Chinese temples stand, says Edgar Te, who worked with businessman Amado So in laying the groundwork of the plan.

Sebastian Angliongto, former chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), also says they are developing the place into a transshipment point of cheap electronics goods from China and other areas of the East Asean Growth Area—composed of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

But unlike those insular enclaves that used to typify the world's earliest Chinatowns, the Davao Chinatown will showcase how Chinese culture blended with everything in Davao, says Angliongto.

Four grand welcome arches (*paifang* in Mandarin) which come to symbolize most Chinatowns around the world—will soon be put up at both ends of the old streets of Oyanguren and Santa Ana, bordering the whole Chinatown here.

They will adopt traditional Chinese designs but with the icon and symbols of Davao, says Angliongto, whose father left China to set sail to the islands across the South Seas (Nanyang), referring to the Philippines, and eventually opened the first ferry routes in Davao.

THE GOAL is to create a place that showcases how Chinese culture blended with everything in Davao. PHOTOS BY BING GONZALES/MINDANAO BUREAU

WITH SIGNS like this, one knows he is in Chinatown.

"Indigenous fruits like *durian* and pomelo or bird species like the Philippine Eagle will be incorporated in the Chinese design to tell travelers they are in Davao," says Angliongto.

The four gates—which will cost around P2.5 million to P5 million each—will stand for peace, hope, unity and friendship, says Te, who heads the technical group designing the project.

Two of the grand arches will be set up at the opposite ends of the old Oyanguren street, a street lined up with shops owned by Chinese merchants selling grains, car tires and spare parts and cheap textiles.

This old street was named after Basque trader Don Jose Oyanguren of Guizpuzcoa, Spain who later became Davao's first governor-general.

But in 1963, to erase traces of the colonial regime, the Davao City Council changed its name to Ramon Magsaysay.

The new street name however failed to catch the people's fancy, because up to this day, the street continued to be called Oyanguren.

As a boy growing up in the 60s, Go says the name Oyanguren evokes the images of wooden houses with capiz shell windows lining the streets. The parallel street of Monteverde—where calesas used to ply—stretches all the way to the pier, known today as the Santa Ana wharf.

Another pair of arches will be installed at both ends of Santa Ana Avenue, which cuts across the old Hospital Avenue along C.M. Recto, and passes by the Chinese Davao Central School, where young Davao Chinese Filipinos first learn their letters.

Go realized only lately what language can do to connect a new generation of Chinese-Filipinos to their family in China. His father died in 1983, but his aunt arrived here from China in 1984.

She thought they could not understand each other and was only surprised to hear the same Fookien language that she grew up with is spoken so well by most Chinese here.

"We speak the vernacular Fookien Amoy although the *pudong jua* (national language) of China is Mandarin," Go says. Now, his aunt has visited Davao seven times.

Aside from the four arches, the Davao Chinese community is setting up road signs and billboards with Chinese characters. Red lanterns will adorn storefronts and lamp posts will light up the whole area at night.

But for Te, it was not that easy convincing the elders of the Davao Chinese community to open up to the idea of a Davao Chinatown.

"It took about four years of hard work by businessman Amado So before the Chinese elders here finally opened up to it," he says.

Reta, who chairs the City Council committee on tourism, authored the ordinance creating the Davao Chinatown, and a resolution setting up the Davao Chinatown Development Council, composed of government and private representatives, to develop the whole area into a world class travelers' destination.

As a result, the Davao Chinatown project has spurred revival of interest in Chinese culture, says Go.

He says they have started tracing family roots to find out who were the first Chinese migrants in Davao.

But at present, they can trace only as far back as Lim Chuan Jun, mentioned by Rogelio Lizada in his book "Sang-awun sa Dabaw" (Once upon a time in Davao) to have arrived in Davao in 1878.

"We're still digging up the archives," says Go. "So far, we can only trace as far back as the fourth generation."

But Angliongto is confident it can be done. "Those old people, they were very wise," he says. "They left traces. When a Spanish edict in 1904 made them change their names, they adopted the whole name, so that future generation can trace them. Some adopted totally new names because they wanted to vanish without a trace but my father, he adopted his whole name Angliongto, as if to tell the later generation what happened to him."

According to Lizada's account, the old Lim Chuan Jun later adopted the name of Francisco Villa Abrille, after the Spanish Governor General of Davao Faustino Villa Abrille.

Go says they are lining up at least five major Chinese festivals every year to celebrate here.

These include the Chinese lunar New Year, the Ching Ming or Spring Festival, the dragon festival in summer, the moon festival and the Chung Yung festival in honor of the ancestral graves.

But with the existing firecrackers' ban in Davao, they are using gongs to sound the festivities, and they are coming up with other ways to make the festivities merrier, says Go.

For the first time last month, the Davao Chinatown celebrated the moon festival, a Chinese festival at the time of the year when the moon is at its fullest and the Chinese share mooncakes.

In ancient China, during the rule of the Mongolians from the north, Angliongto says, the people overthrew the oppressive regime by baking a moon cake so large, it concealed their weapons. They launched their attack at 12 midnight when the moon was at its brightest and won.

Now that Chinese families are scattered around the world, the moon festival has assumed new meaning.

For the Chinese, it is the time for remembering one's family and to hold family reunions.

"For big families like us, living in different parts of the world, one only has to look at the moon to be reminded of home," says Angliongto.

FOUR GRAND welcome arches (paifang in Mandarin)—which symbolize most Chinatowns around the world—will soon be put up at both ends of the old streets of Oyanguren and Santa Ana.

INA with Globe Girlfriends for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, happening today in Makati. Avon is the largest corporate supporter of the breast cancer cause. Through its Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer campaign, it paved the way for the PGH Breast Cancer.

Always think ...

From page B1

Her first challenge came when Playtex, then a partner of Avon, was bought by Sara Lee. Playtex or the intimate apparel business of the direct selling firm was then number two in the total Avon business in the Philippines.

Avon was then given just six months before Playtex pulled out. Her job was to set up a completely new line of intimate apparel. At one point, the regional office already told them that they did not have to meet the deadline as it was impossible. But Ina and her team stuck to it and somehow they were able to come up with a line.

They were able to come up with their own intimate apparel line and sales did not suffer.

To this day, Ina only has one motto which has helped make her come out ahead. And she was surprised to learn her son Lorenzo has a similar mindset even without her telling him about it: "Always think somebody is better, so you try harder."

WITH ANDREA Jung, head of Avon Worldwide

How far are you willing to go to be a unique firm?

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

"Becoming a Category of One"
By Joe Calloway
John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2003

BEING CAUGHT IN A "COMmodity trap" is the one thing being avoided by many companies.

And yet, more and more products and services of many companies succeed in being "commoditized," rather than being "differentiated." Put simply, they end up being "indistinguishable products in a crowd."

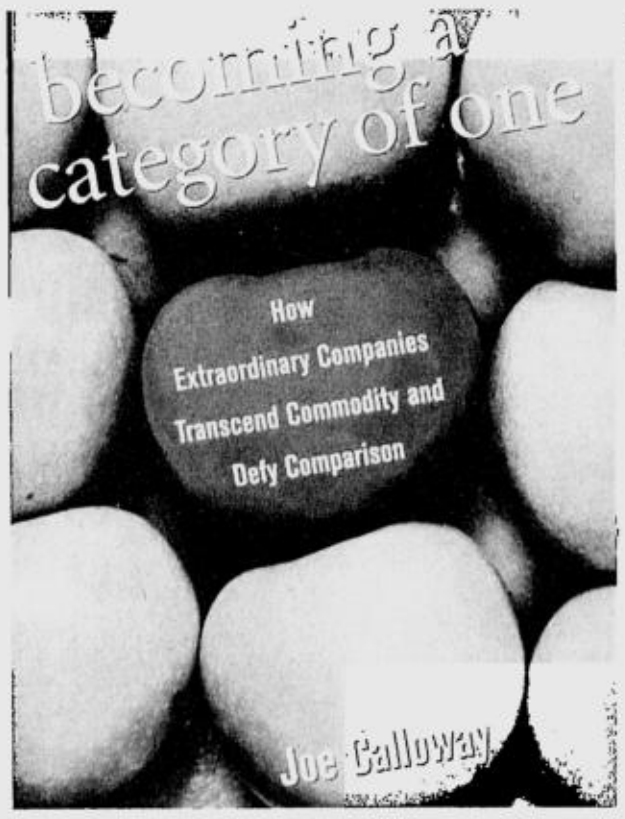
"The marketplace has become 'commoditized.' Customers see parity everywhere. They look at you or me or any other business out there and they believe that they can get pretty much the same thing, just as good, for a similar or lower price from the competition."

Thus says Joe Calloway, author of "Becoming a Category of One," which is subtitled: "How Extraordinary Companies Transcend Commodity and Defy Comparison."

I got hold of excerpts from this book in a conference of Filipino-owned million dollar Forex Group of Companies which sought—and successfully so—to be different from "balikbayan" and money-remittance operators in the United States and elsewhere around the world. And then I finally got a copy via Amazon.com.

Calloway deals lengthily with the "commodity trap" in Chapter 4 of this book, and devotes eight other chapters to the energy and style that make you a "category of one" company.

The book title says it all: As a company, you are unique in your own category—and thus transcend competition. Of course, this is easier said than done. Wait, till author Calloway walks you through the things you have to do to be one unique, competition-free (almost) company.



Calloway asks you to have the resolve to take the first step—beyond the usual rhetoric in strategic planning sessions and spine-tingling slogans. "How far are you willing to take this thing?" And he warns you and me about certain upheavals due to changes that follow a decision to change the familiar way of doing business: "What's your tolerance for chaos?"

And I recall what Alfred North Whitehead said: "Progress is the art of creating change in the midst of order, and of preserving order in the midst of chaos."

"When you say that your intention is to be in the business or to achieve true excellence or to take your business to the next level, are you serious or are you really just kidding around?" In this well-written book, you get crisp and urgent passages that summarize every Calloway thought—like: "We mean it. Let's go."

The author, whose drawing appeal among clients seeking counsel is his candor, writes: "Better be honestly mediocre and try to stay where you are with a sense of contentment than be unrealistically ambitious about what is yet to be and never get there because you never really wanted go in the first place."

How many firms have elaborately concocted slogans in planning sessions that soon become clichés because rhetoric never saw action?

EXECUTIVE READ

Calloway doesn't discourage us from celebrating our past victories, but issues a warning that what succeeded in the past may not work at present or in the future. He has a laconic advice: "What got you there will seldom keep you there (much less take you to the next level)." Elsewhere in the book, the author gives another one-liner: "Past success can be, and usually is, the enemy of future success."

He points out that rapid changes are going within and outside your industry, and "it is best," he says, that "we blast the cobwebs of stale thinking out of everyone's minds." He quotes Mike Burandt, president of North American Consumer Products of Georgia Pacific, who said: "Challenge old ideas, provoke thought and invite innovation."

Throughout the book, the author speaks highly of the power of "bringing everyone on board" the company's new vision, paddling at the same time, and be one in following the leadership.

So, he suggests the "use of powerful language." He explains, "If you have strong feelings about your company, your people, your customers, and your work, then use strong language." He takes to task many mission statements that are without blood, without fire and without audacity.

Calloway cites the vision of LensCrafters, which was stated simply but mightily thus: "We will be the est at helping the world see better." He scoffs at the fossilized "being number one" and the overused "exceeding customer expectations."

Author wants business leaders to aspire for greatness and to inspire their people to dream dreams. He says that Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. didn't rally thousands of people to the cause of civil rights with his "I Have a Strategic Plan" speech, but has inspired a nation with his "I have a Dream" message.

"Greatness attracts greatness," he says, adding that "people want to be identified with a great company. So, back to LensCrafters, he gets goose bumps with this goal statement: "Giving the gift of sight to those who have the least and need us the most." Try something similar.

The "category of one" firm belongs to the good guys. So, Calloway advises firms to make a self-assessment and candidly answer this question: "Are you a good guy or a bad guy."

Finally, the author says, "people are the great differentiator" that will make you a "category of one" company. Greatness relies, first of all, on the leader who aspires for greatness and who inspires among his people devotion to higher ideals.

Is it difficult to be a "category of one" company? Calloway talks about it as if it is easy. But when "talk" comes to "walk"—that's where the difficulty lies. And that's where the extraordinary companies are set apart from the merely mediocre. So, let's go do it! *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

Planting seeds of hope in a cooking school

EARLY IN THE '70s, A GROUP OF women heeded the call of St. Josemaria Escriva that love for family, fellowmen and God "is deeds, not sweet words".

Knowing that education is one of the most potent tools to empower the poor, the ladies set out to organize Punlaan School.

From its first home in a garage in New Manila, Punlaan is now a non-profit vocational-training school for underprivileged young women under the Foundation for Professional Training Inc. (FPTI).

The well-managed institution on M. Paterno St. in San Juan is accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Tourism.

According to Luz Filmer, Executive Director and CEO of the school, Punlaan opens its doors to deserving young women who have the desire to study but do not have the financial means to do so.

The institution supports them by offering quality education based on Christian ideals for skills/livelihood and gainful employment in the hope that as empowered, productive members of society, they can work for a brighter future for themselves and their families.

This is accomplished through a free 24-month diploma course for those who wish to pursue a career in the hotel and restaurant industry.

FROM the Punlaan School Handbook: Many are poor and remain poor because they do not have access to education, neither to livelihood opportunities. Poverty is hard on men and, in many ways, harder on women. Culinary arts expert Jennie Ungui (without apron) helps deserving women by equipping them with a skill.

The course offers the Dual Training Scholarship Program, which allows students to alternate theory learning and on-the-job-training in a partner hotel or restaurant establishment.

Unlike the gritty reality that underprivileged folks have to face every day, inside Punlaan is a haven where they can let their dreams grow—more than 500 graduates have found employment in some of the country's most prestigious hotels and restaurants working as kitchen, food, beverage and pastry attendants, and cost control clerks.

To maintain the quality of the school system, Punlaan accepts high school graduates (not beyond second year college) with an average grade of 80 percent.

School officials conduct written, oral and medical exams to make sure that the scholarships are given to the most deserving candidates. Around 50-60 scholars are accepted every year.

Punlaan is different because it provides unique benefits to poor young women who qualify for the scholarship: it offers free tuition for two years, P600 monthly stipend starting on the seventh month of the program, on-the-job placement in a prestigious hotel or restaurant and immediate employment upon graduation.

But beyond the professional training, Filmer says the institution puts a premium on spiritual formation through one-on-one sessions where individual needs and circumstances are tackled and worked out. Values such as the dignity of work and spirit of service are inculcated in the students which are very much appreciated by their on-the-job training and employment venues.

Another of Punlaan's commendable projects is the Home Skills Training Program for household helpers. Participants are taught kitchen and home management, as well as conversational English and values education. For a minimal fee, working mothers can enroll their house helps in the program, confident that after training is completed, the home can be left in good hands.

GLAD bags and wraps found the school's vision/mission of "helping young women with limited financial support to develop their potential of pursuing a career in culinary" very appealing and challenging. With this in mind, Glad started its partnership with Punlaan School last July 2005. Glad provides free kitchen products like Glad cling wraps, bake paper and zipper storage/freezer bags for the school's training program. The partnership is seen to go beyond teaching but leading and guiding through series of product demos tied up with different kitchen and home management tips.

Being a donee institution, Punlaan School is in need of help in their quest for financial resources for the continuation of their program and to be able to reach out to more student beneficiaries if possible. Those who would like to help can sponsor a scholar (P2,000 per scholar per month = P24,000 per year or P48,000 for two years), donate supplies or pledge any amount. For details, please call 727-0581 to 82.

Despite financial struggles, Punlaan School believes that there is a way beyond merely surviving. The resolute school and its hope-filled students continue to thrive with the help of generous souls.

KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR

ON-SITE AUCTION

PHILACOR PLANT

SITE LOCATION : DR. A. SANTOS, AVE., COR. PHILACOR DRIVE, SUCAT, PARANAQUE CITY, MM
AUCTION DATES : OCTOBER 26 & 27, 2005, 10:30 AM
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : OCT. 24 & 25, 2005, 9:00AM - 5:00PM

CONSISTING OF (5,500 PCS.) GI SHEETS, (700 TONS) I-BEAM, (223 TONS) TRUSSES, (250TONS) PURLINS, DOORS / WINDOWS, (11) WATER TANKS, (5,000 PCS) LUMBER, INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING FIXTURES, (3) TRANSFORMER 333KVA, (3) 250KVA, PIPES, (100 TONS) VARIOUS METAL SCRAP

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Unlimited call and text SIM pack out

IF YOU ALWAYS FIND YOURSELF DOING personal or business calls anytime between 12:00 midnight and 6pm, then here's one budget-friendly, unlimited deal you would surely appreciate. Introducing—Sun Cellular's new Daylite Call & Text Unlimited SIM Pack, the unbeatable prepaid SIM for heavy daytime cellphone users which comes fully loaded with 12 days of DayLite Call and Text Unlimited for only P125!

With the new Daylite Call & Text Unlimited SIM, mobile communications has become even more affordable and convenient. For only P125, you immediately get a new SIM preloaded with 18 hours of daily Sun-to-Sun calls and 24 hours of text messaging everyday for 12 days. That's a total of 216 hours instead of just the regular 168 for 7 days! Definitely the best-value call and text unlimited service in town!

Meantime, calls made from 6:01pm to 11:59pm are charged a special low Sun-to-Sun rate of P1.00/minute. Text messaging, on the other hand, remains unlimited, all day, all night!

There's no need to register or access special numbers to avail of the DayLite Call and Text Unlimited. Simply activate the new SIM and the service takes effect immediately. Once the pre-loaded 12-day unlimited access expires, subscribers can simply load up via call cards, e-pins, text and via The Mall. Just text DCTU<space>12 and send to 223 or enter The Mall from your phone menu, choose Mall Assistant then My Account, select Prepaid, then Buy DayLite and pick DCTU100.

The new Daylite Call & Text Unlimited SIM pack is the latest unlimited product from Sun Cellular—the network that continues to offer subscribers more choices and more fun! Some of the other value-for-money, permanent unlimited services from Sun include the revolutionary 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited, 24/7 Text Unlimited and 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite.

Learn to make soap

IN LINE WITH THE THE GOVERNMENT'S project to give jobs and business for those who would like to venture into the soap making business, the Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program (GTSDP) will conduct a one day seminar on "Soap-Making" to be held at UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Ave., cor. Ylanan St., University of the Philippines, Diliman Q.C. on Oct. 29, 2005 (Saturday) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The topics to be discussed are: Theories and principles of Soap Making, Sourcing of Materials, Costing and Pricing on different kinds of soap.

Also there will be a hands-on experience on making of different kinds of soap such as: Liquid Dishwashing soap, Liquid Hand soap, Liquid All purpose soap, Bar detergent soap (all purpose) Powder soap (all purpose), Herbal Bath soap (papaya,kalamansi,oatmeal,etc.) Fabric softener, Liquid Bleach. Added feature of the seminar is a free lecture on smart entrepreneurship (how to start and manage your own soap business)

Participants will receive a certificate of training. Lunch and snacks will be provided and free handouts on soap making will be given.

Interested parties may call 952-40-28/ 436-78-26/ 952-29-34/ 913-65-51 and 951-29-66.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

NOVEMBER 10, 2005 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • CENTURY RESORT HOTEL, Mc Arthur Hiway, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga

ANGELES
LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 446 sqm. F.A. : 119 sqm.
Lot 678-C McArthur Hiway Balibago
Minimum Bid Price : 6,132,000.00

APALIT
LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 288 sqm. F.A. : 120 sqm.
Lot 3-D Brgy. Rd., No. 387 Brgy. Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price : 379,000.00
LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 105 sqm.
Lot 1985-C-3-H-3 Public Market Pasalo, San Vicente
Minimum Bid Price : 983,000.00
LOT 4 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 15,180 sqm.
Lot No. 1722 San Vicente
Minimum Bid Price : 959,000.00
LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 300 sqm.
Lot 19 & 21 Blk. 13 St. Peter Subd., San Vicente
Minimum Bid Price : 184,500.00

ARAYAT
LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 341 sqm.
Lot 3056-A Brgy. Balit
Minimum Bid Price : 97,000.00
LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 370 sqm. F.A. : 145 sqm.
Lot 8 Brgy. Rd., Purok 11, Cacutud
Minimum Bid Price : 829,000.00
LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 600 sqm.
Lot 320 Brgy. Rd, No. 31 Purok 6, Brgy. Camba
Minimum Bid Price : 189,000.00
LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 3,244 sqm.
Lot 2036-E Magalang-Arayat Prov'l. Rd., Gatiawin
Minimum Bid Price : 993,000.00
LOT 10 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 743 sqm.
Lot 2284-J-1-C Brgy. Gatiawin
Minimum Bid Price : 253,000.00

BACOLOR
LOT 11 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 328 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 11 Rd. Lot 1, Don Bosco Village, Brgy. Cabalantian
Minimum Bid Price : 20,000.00
LOT 12 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 301 sqm.
Lot 3221-B-2 Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Macabacle
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 13 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 46, Blk 3 Rd. Lot 3 San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price : 15,000.00

FLORIDA BLANCA
LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 21.17 sqm.
Lot 87 Pabanlang
Minimum Bid Price : 1,186,000.00

GUAGUA
LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 515 sqm.
Lot 1473 & 1134, #9 Purok 6, Brgy. Natividad
Minimum Bid Price : 85,000.00
LOT 16 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 1,387 sqm.
Lot 3-B Ascomo, Palimpinsalle
Minimum Bid Price : 201,000.00
LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 250 sqm.
Lot 4-B, #214, Purok 4, Brgy. Ascomo, Palimpinsalle
Minimum Bid Price : 80,000.00
LOT 18 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 154 sqm.
Lot 14 Brgy. Rd., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price : 40,000.00
LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 300 sqm.
Lot 1-D San Matias
Minimum Bid Price : 174,300.00
LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 241 sqm.
Lot 2-I Rd. Lot, Carretta Subd., Brgy. Sto. Niño & Sto. Cristo
Minimum Bid Price : 45,000.00
LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 731 sqm.
Lot 5-F Cervantes Subd., Sto. Niño
Minimum Bid Price : 187,000.00
LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 456 sqm.
Lot 5-H Cervantes Subd., Sto. Niño
Minimum Bid Price : 117,000.00
LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 403 sqm.
Lot 5-G Cervantes Subd., Sto. Niño
Minimum Bid Price : 103,000.00
LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,033 sqm.
Lot 5-P Cervantes Subd., Sto. Niño
Minimum Bid Price : 264,000.00

LUBAO
LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,392 sqm.
Lot 2-C & 2-E San Roque Arbol
Minimum Bid Price : 53,000.00
LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,068 sqm.
Lot 14-1 Rd. Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 319,000.00
LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-I-2 Rd. Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 319,000.00*
LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-I-3 Rd. Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 319,000.00
LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-H-3, Rd. Lot 1-J, San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 319,000.00
LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-H-2, Rd. Lot 1-J, San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 319,000.00
LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-H-1, Rd. Lot 1-J, San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 319,000.00
LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,068 sqm.
Lot 1-I-4 Prov'l. Rd., San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price : 446,000.00
LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 1,875 sqm. F.A. : 413 sqm.
Lot 5700 & 5701 Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price : 1,573,000.00
LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 7,000 sqm.
Lot C-1 Brgy. Sta. Lucia & San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 16,000.00

MABALACAT
LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 375 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 36 Rizal St. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price : 60,000.00

MACABEBE
LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 289 sqm. F.A. : 154 sqm.
Lot 927 Nat'l. Rd., Caduang Tete
Minimum Bid Price : 422,000.00
LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 538 sqm.
Lot 2593-T Access Rd., San Roque
Minimum Bid Price : 89,000.00

MAGALANG
LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 350 sqm. F.A. : 72 sqm.
Lot 7, #150 Purok 4, Brgy. San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 195,000.00
LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 2,785 sqm.
Lot 9-A Baliuag Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 1,049,000.00
LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 2,177 sqm.
Lot 9-B Baliuag Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 813,000.00
LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 2,171 sqm.
Lot 9-C Baliuag Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 811,000.00
LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 2,164 sqm.
Lot 9-D Baliuag Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 808,000.00
LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 2,254 sqm.
Lot 9-E Baliuag Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 842,000.00
LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 2,172 sqm.
Lot 9-F Baliuag Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 811,000.00
LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 2,199 sqm.
Lot 9-G Baliuag Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 818,000.00
LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 12,050 sqm. F.A. : 1,485 sqm.
Lot 2 Brgy. Rd., San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price : 2,247,000.00
LOT 47 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 226 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 64,000.00
LOT 48 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 331 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 93,000.00
LOT 49 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00
LOT 50 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00
LOT 51 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00
LOT 52 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00
LOT 53 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00
LOT 54 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00
LOT 55 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00
LOT 56 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 20,000.00
LOT 57 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 24,000.00
LOT 58 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 12, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 24,000.00
LOT 59 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 433 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 1 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 260,000.00
LOT 60 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 368 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 221,000.00
LOT 61 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 303 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 1 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 182,000.00
LOT 62 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 356 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 221,000.00
LOT 63 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 249 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 150,000.00
LOT 64 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 253 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 152,000.00
LOT 65 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 257 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 155,000.00
LOT 66 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 261 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 157,000.00
LOT 67 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 265 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 159,000.00
LOT 68 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 270 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro Magalang
Minimum Bid Price : 162,000.00
LOT 69 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 295 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 177,000.00
LOT 70 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 181 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 109,000.00
LOT 71 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 149 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 90,000.00
LOT 72 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 218 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 131,000.00
LOT 73 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 269 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 162,000.00
LOT 74 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 236 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 142,000.00
LOT 75 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro Magalang
Minimum Bid Price : 144,000.00
LOT 76 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 155 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 93,000.00
LOT 77 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 218 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 131,000.00
LOT 78 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 149 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 90,000.00
LOT 79 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 153 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 92,000.00
LOT 80 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 147 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00
LOT 81 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 186 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 52,000.00
LOT 82 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 148 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00
LOT 83 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 183 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 52,000.00
LOT 84 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 304 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 86,000.00
LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 236 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 86 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 87 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 89 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 90 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 280 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 21,000.00
LOT 91 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 365 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 27,000.00
LOT 92 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 265 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 16,000.00
LOT 93 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 338 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 25,000.00
LOT 94 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 95 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 96 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 97 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 236 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 98 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 363 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 28,000.00
LOT 99 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 100 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 101 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 102 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 103 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 104 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 105 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 106 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 107 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 108 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 329 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 25,000.00
LOT 109 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 279 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 7 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 21,000.00
LOT 110 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 238 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 7 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 111 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 244 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 7 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 19,000.00
LOT 112 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 242 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 72,000.00
LOT 113 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 13, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 114 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 115 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 116 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 281 sqm.
Lot 16, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 22,000.00
LOT 117 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 197 sqm.
Lot 17, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 15,000.00
LOT 118 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 290 sqm.
Lot 18, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 22,000.00
LOT 119 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 19, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 120 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 20, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 121 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 21, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 122 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 22, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 123 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 23, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 124 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 24, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 125 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 25, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 126 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 26, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 127 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 27, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 128 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 28, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 129 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 130 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 240 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00
LOT 131 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 306 sqm.
Lot 31, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 23,000.00
LOT 132 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 287 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 16,000.00

MASANTOL
LOT 133 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 194 sqm.
Lot 735-B-13-I-5-6 Brgy. Bobo-Anac
Minimum Bid Price : 81,000.00

MEXICO
LOT 134 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 279 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 9 Subd. Rd., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price : 152,000.00
LOT 135 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 270 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 9 Subd. Rd., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price : 152,000.00

MINALIN
LOT 136 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 410 sqm. F.A. : 95 sqm.
Lot 10 No. 56 Capt. Felicano St., Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price : 283,000.00
LOT 137 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 345 sqm. F.A. : 251 sqm.
Lot No. 16 Cabacan St., Brgy. Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price : 175,000.00
LOT 138 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 513 sqm. F.A. : 115 sqm.
Lot 295 Benito St., Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price : 415,000.00
LOT 139 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 368 sqm.
Lot 1143 Brgy. Rd., Brgy. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price : 88,000.00
LOT 140 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 238 sqm.
Lot 25, Blk 17 Rd. Lot, Brgy. Sta. Rita
Minimum Bid Price : 51,000.00

PORAC
LOT 141 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,485 sqm.
Lot 1115-B Brgy. Mancatian
Minimum Bid Price : 5,000.00
LOT 142 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,400 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 4 Brgy. Manualag-Pasig
Minimum Bid Price : 64,000.00
LOT 143 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 300 sqm. F.A. : 140 sqm.
Lot 455-B-2-C-3 # 218 Purok 5 Brgy. Pelat
Minimum Bid Price : 266,000.00
LOT 144 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 1,505 sqm.
Lot 1037 & Lot 1038-I Gen. Luna St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 1,313,000.00
LOT 145 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 1,013 sqm.
Lot 497-D-10 Brgy. Sapang Balizon
Minimum Bid Price : 130,000.00

SAN FERNANDO
LOT 146 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 431 sqm.
Lot 4177-A-3-E Purok 3, Brgy. Dela Paz Norte
Minimum Bid Price : 81,000.00
LOT 147 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 341 sqm. F.A. : 88 sqm.
Lot 4160-A Brgy. Sapalibu
Minimum Bid Price : 78,000.00
LOT 148 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 1,575 sqm.
Lot 9-E Corazon St., Brgy. San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price : 588,804.00
LOT 149 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 456 sqm.
Lot 3-A-9 San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price : 338,000.00
LOT 150 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 280 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 17 Bel-Air And Sta. Monica Subds., San Felipe & San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price : 57,000.00
LOT 151 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 209 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk 17 Bel-Air And Sta. Monica Subds., San Felipe & San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price : 57,000.00
LOT 152 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 375 sqm.
Lot28, Blk 1 Rd. Lot 2, San Jose Village, Brgy. San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 64,000.00
LOT 153 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 191 sqm. F.A. : 252 sqm.
Lot 20-B #631 Purok 1, San Jose Pandaan
Minimum Bid Price : 897,000.00
LOT 154 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 300 sqm. F.A. : 110 sqm.
Lot 21, Blk 4 Genesis St., Olivas Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price : 240,084.48
LOT 155 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 351 sqm.
Lot 20, Blk 10 Rd. Lot 7, Olivas Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00
LOT 156 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 383 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 5 Brgy. Rd., Punok 10, Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price : 108,000.00
LOT 157 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 379 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 6 Rd. Lot 2, Asrao Subd., Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price : 97,000.00

SAN LUIS
LOT 158 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 2,395 sqm. F.A. : 95 sqm.
Lot 2318-C Brgy. Rd., # 320 San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 143,000.00
LOT 159 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 20,446 sqm.
Lot 2213-F San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 384,000.00
LOT 160 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 232 sqm. F.A. : 123 sqm.
Lot 6-A-4 Brgy. Rd., # 2591 San Roque
Minimum Bid Price : 95,000.00
LOT 161 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 586 sqm.
Lot 22, Brgy. Rd. Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price : 41,000.00

SAN SIMON
LOT 162 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 76 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 1 Rd. Lot 1, Brgy. Concepcion
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00
LOT 163 - VACANT LOT
L.A. : 654 sqm.
Lot 3310 Concepcion
Minimum Bid Price : 151,000.00
LOT 164 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 893 sqm.
Lot 2 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 416,000.00
LOT 165 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 273 sqm.
Lot 4 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 59,000.00
LOT 166 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 773 sqm. F.A. : 148 sqm.
Lot No. 1523 Municipal Rd. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 484,000.00
LOT 167 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 586 sqm. F.A. : 70 sqm.
Lot 1342 Prov'l. Rd., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 200,000.00

STA. ANA
LOT 168 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. : 263 sqm. F.A. : 170 sqm.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Lee Gardens to set the tone for Mandaluyong property mart

LEE GARDENS, A 33 AND 23-storey two-tower building combines the best in residential and retail facilities. A mixed use development of under 3,000 square meters of commercial space supporting a two-tower residential complex in Mandaluyong City, it combines the expertise of foremost developers, Daiichi Properties and Development Inc and IPM Realty and Development Corp. Designed to cater to a market that requires quality, prime location and competitive prices, Lee Gardens promises to set the tone for property development in the City. It's all about space, magnificent views, a rarity in the metropolis.

To ensure its quality, world-renowned consultants from the U.S. and Hong Kong were contracted together with our local design team whose expertise and experience are topnotch. Wong & Tung International Ltd of Hong Kong, a 42-year old firm of planner, architects and engineers, is the design consultant. Their local counterpart for the project, Pimentel, Rodriguez, Simbulan and Partners (PRSP) is the architect and planner for Lee Gardens.

For its structural design, Skilling Ward Magnusson Barkshire Inc (SWMB) of Seattle, Washington founded in 1923 was made part of the team. In collaboration with the Philippines' Aromin & Sy + Associates, Lee Gardens is a solid structure embodying safety and soundness.

The result is a well-designed and structurally sound condominium. The layout of the units is deliberate, even the smaller cuts feel spacious. Every unit is well ventilated with Canadian designed bay and awning windows creating an open atmosphere. Looking out, it offers a panoramic view of the Makati Skyline and Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club. Even with the picture of the residential area along Shaw Boulevard, its appeal remains favorable. One's view will never be obstructed.

With only 10 units per floor for the North Tower and 16 units per floor for the South Tower, privacy is assured. Ample number of Schindler high-speed elevators will service each floor for both towers. Parking will also never be a problem. The 7-level basement parking accommodates a large number of vehicles. By way of a covered drop-off point along Lee Street, traffic congestion is minimized.

The building's exterior is painted with Hitchins elastomeric coating imported from Singapore, a special high-build paint guaranteeing top-quality aesthetics that also protects and waterproofs, lasting 7 years without fading. Its stand-by generators are from Mitsubishi ensuring 100 percent emergency power for the common areas. The distinct modern amenities, efficient building facilities and services truly meet the needs of your family.

Lee Gardens, designed to provide high-rise living in a garden setting, with its two towers surrounded by greenery and excellent views of Wack Wack Golf Course, Ortigas and Makati Skyline, the Manila Bay and Antipolo Hills, these are just some of the finer points of making Lee Gardens your home.

For more information, please log on to www.leegardens.com.ph

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING NETWORK AMONG TOP TAXPAYERS IN QC

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network was recently recognized as one of the Top Business Taxpayers for 2004 in a Testimonial Dinner hosted by Quezon City Local Government and Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila. Shown receiving the award from QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte is ABS-CBN VP for finance Randy Estrellado. Others in photo are: Carlito Balita, QCCCI president; Maloli Espinosa, ABS-CBN VP for government corporate affairs and public relations, QC Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and QC Majority Floor Leader Ariel Inton.

Clips

Gawad Sinop Award

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE for Supply Management (PISM) and the Society of Fellows in Supply Management (SFSM) announces the launch of its search for the Gawad Sinop Awardee (Supply Management Professional) for the Year 2006 during a special gathering on Oct. 25, 12 noon at the New World Hotel, Makati City. For more information about the Gawad Sinop Awards, interested parties may contact the PISM office at 634-6632; 634-5942, visit online at www.pism.org or e-mail at secretariat@pism.org

Chili's Greenhills turns 7

CHILI'S GRILL AND BAR IN GREENHILLS TURNS 7 this month of October and promises to treat its loyal patrons to a bagful of treats, and delightful meals and deals in the inimitably Chili's Big Way. For every group of seven, the seventh guest gets to eat for free. Visit Chili's Greenhills and find out more about this exciting offer. This offer is valid from Oct. 1 to 31 at Chili's Greenhills branch only. Chili's Grill & Bar is located at Connecticut Street, in Greenhills an outlet that has been serving customers for seven years, and also in Greenbelt One in Makati and Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

SMA batch '80 silver jubilee

THE 1980 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF ST. Mary's Academy (SMA) in Pasay City will celebrate their silver jubilee in an alumnae homecoming/grand reunion on Nov. 26, on the school grounds. The event, which has a 70s theme, has as highlights a raffle draw, an audio-visual presentation, and musical and production numbers to be provided by the U.P. Singing Ambassadors Alumni, Tinnie Bartolome-Lagman (formerly of The Hotdog), the KOINE Theater Foundation with Neil de Mesa. Batches dating back from 1950 are expected to attend this milestone event. For more details, please contact Amenita Rocafort-Relos at 0916-7983761; Teresa Distor-Caparas at 812-4913, 0918-9408195, or Milagros Sarte of SMA at 551-4663.

Leaders Unlimited Seminar Series 2005 Campus Tour

LEADERS UNLIMITED, THE AURELIO PERIQUET Jr. Business Leadership Seminar Series in cooperation with PLDT recently kicked off its Campus Tour 2005 with a series of seminars held at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Miriam College, Don Bosco Technical College and at the DLSU-College of St. Benilde. Guest speakers during the seminars were Rustan's Supercenters Inc president Bienvenido Tantoco III; Northroad president and fashion designer Delby Bragais; Andok's Litson founder and president Sandy Javier Jr.; and Aldeguer Group of Companies president Jay Aldeguer. The Seminar Series will next visit Ateneo de Manila University, St. Michael's College of Laguna, DLSU, St. Scholastica's College, UE, UP and UST, Southville International School and PLM.

KNORR'S COOKING SHOWDOWN HITS THE MALLS

Starting Oct. 15, at SM Manila, Knorr invades various malls nationwide with its cooking showdown entitled 'Isang Tikim Ka Lang!'. The Isang Tikim Ka Lang! mall tour, which will be hosted by ABS-CBN personalities, will be featured in various regional and national ABS-CBN shows. ABS-CBN talents will likewise be providing entertainment for the mall-going audience. Pinoy gourmets, cooking fans and foodies can enjoy this live feast of culinary spectacle and exciting entertainment. Just catch the next Makuha Ka sa Tikim stopover. After the Oct. 15 kick off at SM Manila, the Makuha Ka sa Tikim mall tour will head to SM Southmall on Oct. 16; SM North EDSA on Oct. 17; SM Pampanga on Oct. 22; Luisita Mall, Tarlac on Oct. 23; SM Baguio on Nov. 4; CSI Dagupan on Nov. 6; SM Iloilo on Nov. 13; Robinsons Bacolod on Nov. 18; SM Cebu on Nov. 27; SM CDO on Dec. 4; and, SM Davao on Dec. 11. Photo shows Lorraine Timbol, Unilever Food Activations consultant, sampling one of the hot fares whipped out by one of the mall cooking divas. Witness live cooking showdown action at a mall near you!

BIOFLU SWAT TEAM VISITS BARANGGAYS

Bioflu Swat (Samahanag Walang Atrasan sa Trangkaso) team recently visited several baranggays in Cebu, Pangasinan, Davao and Quezon City to give away free samples of Bioflu. 'Sa Bioflu, Walang Kaso ang Trangkaso!'

2005 NOVARTIS BIOCAMP AWARDEES

Photo shows German Peruyero (center) president and CEO of Novartis Healthcare Phils Inc as he proudly awards the winners of the 2005 Novartis International Biotechnology Leadership Camp held in Taiwan from Sept. 23 to 25. Philippine representatives Godwin Vivar from UP Manila (left) and Marlon Pareja from UST Graduate School (right) bested 33 other masteral and doctoral students from various colleges and universities in the Philippines.

Getting into Sharp technology

SHARP IS BETTER KNOWN LOCALLY OF its affordable appliances essential to daily lives. In recent years the pioneer and leading brand for flat panel technology has stamped its No. 1 position in the LCD TVs worldwide.

Peter Villanueva, manager of the product marketing department of Sharp (Phils) Corp said the company has cornered 40 percent of the world's market share on LCD TVs. He also noted that the trend nowadays is "not just about going flat but going LCD."

It recently launched its 56-inch DLP to bridge the gap between conventional (CRT) and projection-type television. Although the DLP technology is not new to the market, Sharp aims to maintain its world No. 1 position in flat television.

"We try to keep improving our technology and always offer something new to the consumers," said Villanueva.

DLP or Digital Light Processing is being used in the projection-type color television. The function is projection type, and it projects the image in the mirror before being flashed on the screen. "With DLP, before the light is being projected on screen, it passes through a DLP chip wherein it has a small mirror," Villanueva said, "Each mirror is dedicated to one pixel and in every pixel it has a special service dedicated that makes the color more enhanced." This gives a brighter quality of video.

Sharp was able to sell this new product by brochure only.

In a few months' time, Sharp will launch its 65-inch LCD panel TV to assert its worldwide position.

Villanueva said the market nowadays always look for something new. This makes the company to always innovate and look for a better, new, and unique technology the consumers need. Aside from television, it will also be coming up with an oven with superheated steam that effectively reduces fat. This is healthy living.

Sharp also consistently upgrades its products. It makes them of high quality and yet very affordable to consumers.

Roberto Littaua of Sharp's public relations and advertising division said the company's thrust is to promote Sharp as a one-of-a-kind brand. "Our objective is really uplift the image of sharp worldwide," he said.

Sharp's long-term goal is to change all conventional television into LCD or flat television globally.

'LAHAT BEEDA, LAHAT BEEDANCE' WITH JOLLIBEE

To inspire confidence and encourage fun teamwork among children, Jollibee has recently launched the 'Lahat Beeda, Lahat Beedance' Competition. At stake is P100,000 for the winning group who will be able to promote unity, teamwork, friendship and happiness through the Bee dance. The showdown is open to all active members of the Jollibee Kids Club (JKC) ages 5 to 9. All they have to do is form a group of five and drop by participating Jollibee outlets nationwide. They will then fill out an official contest application form and submit it to the Store Manager who will inform the group of their audition date. JKC dance groups who make it through the in-store auditions will go on to the Cluster eliminations where they will compete with groups from other stores in their area. The groups will make the cut will then move on to the Regional finals which will be done simultaneously in GMA, North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. And the exceptional groups who will represent their respective regions will come together at the Festival Mall for the Grand Finals on Nov. 5. The young dance enthusiasts will be judged based on their Cooperative Choreography, Stylish Synchronization, Bee Dance wiggle and Audience Appeal.

PCHS '56 PLANS FOR GOLDEN YEAR HOME COMING

Pasay City High School Class '56 Alumni met recently to discuss plans for their golden anniversary home coming on March 18, 2006. Elected to head the affair are: ex-Counselor Eduardo Advincula, chair and Agricola Danao, co-chair of the steering committee. The association is now in the process of updating the alumni directory. All graduates of PCHS class '56 are requested to get in touch with the following: engineer Alfredo Jacob, Salustiano Hugo at 844-7618 and 843-8643 or lawyer Virgelio Bruno at 823-9910 and Pastora Aida delos Reyes at 834-1211.

World class engines to power Tiger Airways fleet expansion

TIGER AIRWAYS, SINGAPORE'S low fare airline, has selected IAE International Aero V2500 engines for its fleet expansion comprising eight new Airbus A320 aircraft.

IAE is a multinational aero engine consortium whose shareholders comprise of Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce, the Japanese Aero Engines Corporation and MTU Aero Engines.

The transaction is valued at US$136 million and the engines will be covered by a long term Maintenance Support Agreement. This allows Tiger Airways to enjoy manufacturer-backed maintenance programs, rather than support from third parties.

IAE president Mark King said the deal was further confirmation of the V2500's appeal to low cost airline operators around the world, especially in the Asia Pacific region. "We're delighted to be associated with the rapid growth of Tiger Airways. They have operated four new V2500-powered A320s since the start of their operations in September last year and have appreciated the world-class reliability, class-leading fuel burn and overall cost-effectiveness."

Tiger Airways CEO Tony Davis said: "Our core business strategy is all about enabling budget-conscious travelers fly more often by keeping tight control on our costs and maximizing capacity utilization and IAE's V2500 engines help us deliver this strategy. The engines have proven reliable and cost-effective. IAE has provided a level of customer support that will allow us to successfully expand our network and provide savvy travelers with an even wider choice of destinations."

Tiger Airways recently announced the purchase of eight new A320 aircraft from Airbus for a combined list price of over US$500 million. The fleet expansion will allow Tiger Airways to treble its fleet from the current four aircraft by end 2007 and enable the airline to fly between four and five million passengers a year. These eight new aircraft will be delivered during 2006 and 2007.

Tiger Airways is Singapore's largest and most popular low fare airline and currently flies to 10 cities in six countries (Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Macau SAR, the Philippines and Indonesia). Flights to Krabi, Tiger Airways' 11th destination across Asia-Pacific, commenced on Oct. 7 while pan-regional flights between Macau and Manila (Clark) start on Oct. 30.

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
GENERAL MANAGER
FOR
Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(BASELCO)
Isabela City, Basilan

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Basilan.

Starting Salary : P 30,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 07 November 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
GENERAL MANAGER
FOR
Leyte III Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(LEYECO III)
Tunga, Leyte

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family Tunga, Leyte.

Starting Salary : P 30,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 07 November 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

SM SUCAT

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

Customer Service Manager

The ideal candidate will be responsible for planning, coordinating, controlling and directing customer service operations and functions in the assigned branch department.

- Female
- not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service
- with pleasing personality

Selling Manager / Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

- Male/Female
- not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity.

Counter & Checking Manager/ Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing counter and checking operations and functions such as cashiering, credit card and cash transactions in the assigned branch department

- Female
- not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions
- responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department

Customer Relations Service Manager/ Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, promulgation and implementation of the over-all security program of the Company

- Male/Female
- not over 35 years old
- graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course
- male must be at least 5'5 1/2 & female must be at least 5'2" in height
- with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel
- with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior
- with keen investigation skills, detail-oriented and physically fit
- flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned to provincial branches and work on extended hours

Office Assistant

(Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)

- Female
- not over 25 years old
- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year business course
- Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

If you believe you are the Ideal Candidate, you may apply personally at:

SM Sucat Corporate Office - HR Department Building B, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat Road, Parañaque City
Monday - Friday / 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

OR

SM Corporate Office - Bldg. D, 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City
Monday - Friday / 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Visit our Website : www.sm-shoeman.com
E-mail : Recruit-SMHO@sm-shoeman.com

Please bring resume / 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History (print out and original) and photocopy of Transcript of Records and Diploma

PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY

A travel agency in San Juan and Mandaluyong needs a:

SECRETARY

- graduate of B.S. Tourism
- computer literate
- with experience in abacus reservation system
- at least one (1) year experience in a travel agency
- 22-35 years old

Please send bio-data with picture to:
P.O. Box 626
Greenhills, Metro Manila
or Call 722-0486

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

Accountant/Bookkeeper
- with proficiency in peach tree / quick book software

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- with 3-5 year experience in professional selling into construction industry

Please bring your application or call:
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4144501 • 912-8491 or
7216987 look for Jane

SM

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

Human Resource Manager

The qualified candidate will be responsible for ensuring effective performance of personnel function in the assigned branch.

Qualifications:

- Female, graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course
- with 2 to 5 years experience in all facets of personnel management in the same capacity such as specialization either in timekeeping, compensation or benefits administration, recruitment and labor relations
- must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization
- with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- team-player, goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
- must be computer literate

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm or send their comprehensive resume with recent photo to :

SM Shoeman
SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D, 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

Visit our Website : www.sm-shoeman.com
E-mail : Recruit-SMHO@sm-shoeman.com

Please bring resume / 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History (print out and original) and photocopy of Transcript of Records / Diploma

---

For Immediate Hiring
5 Bookkeepers/ Accountants
- Female, 20-28 yrs. old
- Accounting graduate
- Computer literate

Bring Bio-data, Transcript of Records
DK & ASSOCIATES
Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
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9:00am to 5:00 pm Daily

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TRAVEL CORP at 892-7764 / Telefax 892-7693 or send CV & application letter to cristina@ultimate.info.com.ph

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read this every Sunday
JOB Market

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The Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc.

NEEDS

TRUCKERS

To handle its heavy sales volume this Christmas Season. The units will be dispatched from Purefoods-Hormel's Marikina Plant and Cavite Plant for deliveries to Greater Manila Area (GMA) and Luzon Provincial Areas (LPA).

Other Relevant Information

Truck Type	:	AUV's/Trucks (1.0-4.0 tons capacity)
Body Type	:	Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period	:	October 01, 2005 to December 31, 2005

For particulars, please call or visit:
MR. ERNESTO S. GAÑA
At the following address and telephone numbers:
PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55
Local 253, 257, 258, and 340
Fax number 645-4535 and 646-9556
Cellular No. 0917-8050116

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **Mr. Johnny P. Palac,** whose picture is shown above, is no longer connected with **ADTEL Inc.** since September 12, 2005.

Any transaction made by Mr. Palac on behalf of Adtel Inc. after the above date, shall no longer be honored by the company.

ADTEL

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. EDWARD C. BALMORES whose picture appears herein is no longer connected with **Amalgamated Development Corporation** effective July 12, 2005.

Any transaction entered into with Mr. Balmores after said date shall not be honored by the Corporation.

(PDI—Oct. 23, 2005)

ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **SM MART Inc.** in today's issue of **Job Market**, some items are inadvertently misspelled and missed out. Please refer to advertisements above, corrections provided.

Our apologies.

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925570
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
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Sundays — 12:00 noon, every Thursday

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Get 10% Referer's fee for every lot sold!

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Minimum bid price starts @ P20,000.00 per lot only!

Affordable memorial lots available for sale via SEALED BIDDING. Bids should be submitted from October 1, 2005 to November 15, 2005. In case of tie, the earliest bid received by Mr. Eriq P. Villaverde, Asset Recovery Group, Unionbank, will be awarded. Winning bid price shall be payable in CASH upon awarding of bid. Transfer fee (P2,000.00), Perpetual Care Fund (P2,000.00), DST, and Notarial Fee are for the account of the buyer. Lot/s should be visited before bidding.

Location : CAGAYAN DE ORO GARDENS
Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro
Section No : Lawn 2 / Blk. 22 Lots D, E, F, G, H
Blk. 25 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 26 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P

Location : ZAMBOANGA MEMORIAL GARDENS
Pitugo, Sinunuc, Zambo. City
Section No. : 18 / Blk. 151 Lots O, P
Blk. 145 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 156 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 169 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 180 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 192 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 193 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P

Location : NORTH ZAMBOANGA GARDENS
Polanco, Zambo. del Norte
Section No : 7
Blk. 320 Lots I, J, K
Blk. 315 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 316 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 317 Lots I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 318 Lots I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 319 Lots I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P

Location : MARIA CRISTINA GARDENS
Sta. Filomena, Iligan City
Section No. : 3-A / Blk. 60 Lots K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 111 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 112 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P

Location : OZAMIS MEMORIAL GARDENS
Dimaluna, Ozamis City
Section No. : 10
Blk. 128 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Blk. 141 Lots A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J

Cut here & send to Mr. Villaverde

Dear Unionbank,
Yes, I'm interested to bid for the following memorial lot/s

Location	Blk.	Lot	My Bid Price

Bidder's Name: _____
Bidder's Address: _____
Bidder's Contact No.: _____
Referrer's Name: _____
Referrer's Contact No.: _____

Cut here & send to Mr. Villaverde

Please use the cut-out form above & send to Mr. Eriq P. Villaverde, Asset Recovery Group, Unionbank 3/F SSS Makati Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St. 1200 Makati City. Winning bidders will be informed through the submitted contact no. For more information, please call Eriq, Joy, Joey, or Anel at (02) 840-0140, (02) 893-8620, (02) 812-6356, (02) 892-0011 locs. 2619, 2652, 2684, and 2611 or e-mail us at epvillaverde@unionbankph.com. The sale is on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any lot or reject any bid. Unionbank employees are not entitled to referrer's fee.

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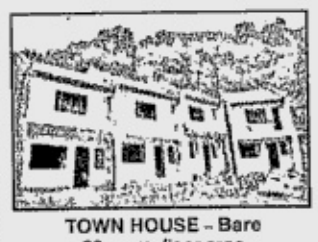
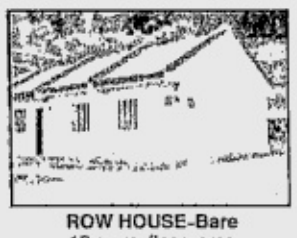
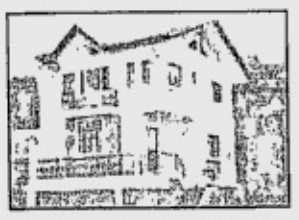


TOWN HOUSE – Bare
60 sq.m. floor area

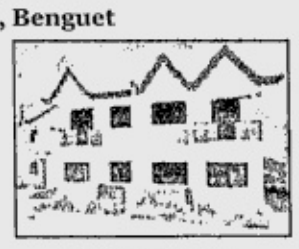


ROW HOUSE-Bare
18 sq.m. floor area

ALAPANG
La Trinidad, Benguet



96 sq.m. with carport or garage



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• ACROPOLIS •
Mandaluyong 204m² Up P13,826/m² Low DP 6461115

★ACROPOLIS MAND.★
NR. MAKATI 204m²-up 13,825/m² CSH OR 133T DP x 48/OS. 5609372

MARIKINA

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LOTS ONLY
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- FULLY-DEVELOPED SUBDIVISION

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MANDALUYONG

Front Near Hosp & Nursing Scul 26sqm Mand. City 1.5 Clean Title 09175331014 5347717 7171726

PASIG

AS IS WHERE IS COMM'L T/H Very Nego 09164216167

COMML/RESDL

MARIKINA

New2styCom cg 3M 9487112

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LA315 to 3648 CommlMainRd P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

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MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

NR. FORT BONI & MKT
1.4M-13M LOTS/HSE & LOTS 0%DP 3YRS TO PAY NO INT
09175300552/09173697338

MANDALUYONG

NEAR SHAW BLVD
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.645M8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br 3tb Jacuzi 3M 9487112

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

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	Location	Description	Selling Price
1	Lot 7 Blk 22 K-4 St., Karangalan Village Bo. of Nakabangan, Cainta, Rizal	2-storey concrete residential bldg. with a total floor area of 86sq.m. Lot area is 64.81 sq.m.	1,104,000.00
2	3 Int Gen Luna St., Ususan, Taguig, MM	2 structure bungalow type concrete residential bldg. with a total floor area of 71 sq.m. Lot area is 200 sq.m. less perpetual right of way 23.26 sq.m. total lot area is 176.74 sq.m.	1,194,000.00
3	Lot 5-D Int. Kentucky St., Bo. Bambang, Taguig, MM	3 door apartment type and 1 concrete residential bldg. with a total floor area of 162.80 sq.m. Lot area is 190.50 sq.m.	1,680,000.00
4	22 Ilocos Norte St., R. Magsaysay, QC	2 storey concrete residential bldg. with a total floor area of 318 sq.m.; Lot area is 237sq.m.	4,000,000.00
5	718 J.P. Rizal St., Concepcion, Marikina	1 - storey commercial bldg. with a total floor area of 119 sq.m. Lot area is 119 sq.m.	3,194,000.00
6	598 Narra St., Rodriguez, Rizal	bungalow type semi-concrete residential bldg. with basement with a total floor area of 79.92 sq.m. Lot area is 151 sq.m.	552,000.00
7	Lot 5 Blk 3 Orchid St., Tres Hermanas Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo, Rizal	vacant lot with an area of 156sq.m., without squatters, below street level	663,600.00
8	Lot 28 Blk 6 Ares Drive, Grand Valley Subd., Phase II, M. Parang, Angono, Rizal	vacant lot with an area of 200sq.m., without squatters, street level	720,000.00
9	Lot 5-O-7 Guinayang, San Mateo, Rizal	erected on subject lot are 1 bungalow type concrete residential bldg, 2 units timber framed residential bldg. Lot area is 491sq.m.	750,000.00
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSE MARINO OLONDRIZ was extrajudicially settled partially by the heirs as per Doc. No. 418 Page 85 Book No. XXI Series of 2005. Before Notary Public Eduardo E. Dela Cruz of Makati City
PDI--Oct. 9, 15, 23, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL A. YAP and LORETA V. YAP has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public HILARIO T. CAMATO, JR. as per Doc#24 Page#6 Book#IA Series of 2005. (PDI-Oct. 23, 30 & Nov. 6, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MARIANO CHENG KING has been extrajudicially settled by his legal heirs under Doc No. 66; Page No. 15; Book No. XV; Series of 2005 of Notary Public atty Aguedo L. Gepte III of City of Manila
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- Female
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science course
- Not more than 30 years old
- Computer literate
- With at least (1) year working experience on HR matters

Staff Assistant *for Operations Dept.*

- Female, single
- Preferably Industrial Eng'g graduate
- With background in logistics / marketing
- Computer literate and with knowledge in basic accounting
- With at least (1) year experience on the required field

(Elf/6W/10W) Truck Drivers

- College or Vocational Level
- Not more than 35 years old
- With basic knowledge in engine trouble shooting
- Familiarity with provincial routes, an advantage
- With at least two (2) years driving experience

Previous applicants need not apply.

Interested applicants may send comprehensive resume at:

e-mail: arrow@netgazer.com.ph
or apply at:
368 F. San Diego Street, Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City
or contact our trunkline 294-94-02/03 294-93-87

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI

Description of Works:
Construction and Development of a Community/Linear Park and Revetment Wall along BASECO Compound in Manila City

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for BASECO URA Project (Community/Linear Park cum Revetment Wall) (Contract No. URA-MLA-01).
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the contract package:

Contract Package	:	Construction and Development of a Community/Linear Park and Revetment Wall
Contract No.	:	URA-MLA-01
Area	:	17,418.79 sq.m.
Location	:	BASECO Compound, Manila City
Contract Duration	:	365 calendar days
Project Description	:	Construction and development of a Community/Linear Park and Revetment Wall which includes the following items of work; Steel Sheet Piling Works, Pile Cap, Gen. Requirements, Paving, Surfacing and Softscape

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 15,000.00	Oct. 21-28, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS Eng'g Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	Oct. 21-28, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
a. Site Inspection	Nov. 8, 2005	10:00 AM	BASECO Compound, Manila City	
b. Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 8, 2005	1:00 PM	Flagship Projects Management Office Museo ng Maynila, T.M. Kalaw cor. Roxas Blvd., Manila City	Right after Site Inspection
Deadline for Submission of Bids	Nov. 29, 2005	10:00 AM	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10 AM) shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	Nov. 29, 2005	10:30 AM		Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidder

4. The City of Manila shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **Bingle H. B. Gutierrez**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No. 926-6444

(PDI - Oct. 16 & 23, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(DND PROPER Procurement of Goods and Services)

I. The Department of National Defense (DND Proper), through the DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Name of Project	Description	Approved Buget for Contract
Supply & Delivery of:		
A. Office Supplies	Assorted office supplies for OSND	443,969.26
B. Computer Supplies	Assorted computer supplies for OSND	423,059.50
C. Other Supplies	Loyalty ring for OSND personnel	485,100.00
D. Printing & Binding	Different printing & binding requirement for OSND	972,400.00
E. ICT Spare Parts	Assorted ICT Spare Parts for OSND	960,120.00
F. Construction Supplies	Assorted construction supplies for OSND	335,547.19
G. Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted vehicle spareparts for OSND	756,705.87
H. Aircon Supplies	Assorted aircon supplies for OSND	259,533.00
I. Building & Maintenance/Other Structure Maintenance	Repair & maintenance of OSND Set-up Transformer for deepwell	150,000.00
J. Repair of Equipment	Repair of video reversing screen	75,000.00
	TOTAL	4,861,454.84

II. The complete schedule of activities is as follows

Activities	Venue	Schedule	Time
a. Issuance of Bid Documents		Starting : October 23 to 6 November 2005	
b. Pre-Bid Conference	Old DND Conf. Rm.	October 27, 2005	2:00 PM
c. Deadline for submission Opening of Bids	Old DND Conf. Rm.	Projects A & B – November 7, 2005	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
		Projects C & D – November 8, 2005	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
		Projects E & F – November 9, 2005	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
		Projects G & H – November 10, 2005	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
		Projects I & J – November 11, 2005	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
d. Bid Evaluation		November 12-18, 2005	
e. Post-Qualification		November 19-25, 2005	
f. Issuance of Notice of Award		November 26 to December 2, 2005	

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-BAC Secretariat 1st Floor Left wing DND Building, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel. No. Trunkline 9116001 Local 8414.

PROJECT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
Project A to C	PhP 500.00
Project D	Php 1,000.00
Project E	PhP 900.00
Project F	PhP 300.00
Project G	PhP 800.00
Project H	PhP 200.00
Project I	Php 100.00

IV. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate in pursuant to DND BAC Cir-01-2005.
VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalityand award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND Bids and Awards Committee (DND-BAC).
VIII. The invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org., and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) UNDERSECRETARY JOSE F. SANTOS
Chairman, DND-BAC

(PDI – October 16 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI

Description of Works:
Construction and Development of Community Facilities (Health Center, Multi-Purpose Hall, Market and High School Building) for Sunny Brooke and Country Meadow relocation sites located in Bgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite.

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for Community Facilities w/ site development (Contract Nos. EPA-RAP-CF18 to CF20)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Contract No.	Area (sq.m.)	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description
Package 1: Site Development and Construction of Health Center and Multi-Purpose Hall (Sunny Brooke 1)	EPA-RAP-CF18	Floor Area = 761 Land Area = 1448	Sunny Brooke and Country Meadow Subd., Bgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite	180 c.d.	Construction and development of Community Facilities which includes the following items of work: construction of temporary facilities; earthworks; civil works; steel works; architectural works, linsmitry; sanitary/plumbing works, site development and electrical works
Package 2: Site Development and Construction of Health Center and Multi-Purpose Hall (Sunny Brooke 2)	EPA-RAP-CF19	Floor Area = 671 Land Area = 1296		180 c.d.	
Package 3: Site Development and Construction of Health Center and Multi-Purpose Hall (Country Meadow)	EPA-RAP-CF20	Floor Area = 668 Land Area = 1,088		180 c.d.	

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00/package	Oct. 24-Nov. 7, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	Oct. 24-Nov. 7, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 10, 2005	8:00 AM	Gen. Trias, Municipal Hall	
Site Inspection	Nov. 10, 2005	2:00 PM	Sunny Brooke and Country Meadow Subd., Bgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite	
Deadline for Submission of Bids	Nov. 22, 2005	10:00 AM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg. Katipunan Rd., Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Late bids shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	Nov. 22, 2005	10:30 AM		Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

4. LGU-Gen. Trias shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **Bingle H. B. Gutierrez**
Executive Director, PRRC

(Sgd.) **Luis A. Ferrer IV**
Municipal Mayor, Gen. Trias, Cavite

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No. 926-6444

(PDI - Oct 16 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **San Lazaro Hospital** hereby invites sealed bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturer/retailers to participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of Hospital Supplies/Materials for 1st semester, January-June 2006; Hospital Contractual Services and Hospital/Medical Equipments for CY 2006. Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Supplies and Materials, Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes.

Application forms for Eligibility shall be available upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) from **October 17-28, 2005, 9:00 am-4:00 pm,** at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Office, San Lazaro Hospital. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION** of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and suporting documents shall not be later than **October 28, 2005.** Please bring original copies of all submitted documents for proper authentication.

Interested Bidders can obtain the BID DOCUMENTS at the BAC Secretariat located at the Procrement Office, San Lazaro Hospital from **October 24, 2005 up to the date before the opening of the bids** by category and upon payment of non-refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the hospital Collection Unit:

• Drugs/Medicines Supplies	Php	2,000.00	
• Laboratory Supplies	Php	1,500.00	
• Medical Supplies/Gases & Oxygen	Php	1,000.00	per category
• Radiology/Dental/Dietary/Janitorial Supplies	Php	500.00	per category
• Maintenance/Linen Supplies	Php	500.00	per category
• Laundry Service	Php	1,000.00	
• Janitorial Service	Php	2,000.00	
• Hospital/Office/Medical Equipments	Php	1,000.00	per category

PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held at SLH Amphitheater/Audio visual Rm. (AVR)/ the SACCL Conference Room San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

• Laboratory Reagent/Supplies	9:00 am	November 7, 2005
• Drugs & Medicines Supplies	1:30 pm	November 7, 2005
• Medical Supplies/Med Gases & Oxygen	9:00 am	November 8, 2005
• Dietary Foodstuff	1:30 pm	November 8, 2005
• Radiology Supplies	2:30 pm	November 9, 2005
• Maintenance Supplies	3:30 pm	November 9, 2005
• Dental Supplies	9:00 am	November 10, 2005
• Janitorial Supplies	10:30 am	November 10, 2005
• Janitorial Service	1:30 pm	November 10, 2005
• Laundry Service/Linen Supplies	2:30 pm	November 10, 2005
• Hospital Equipment	9:00 am	November 11, 2005

OPENING OF BID must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat at the time/dates specified, which said bids will be opened to the Public on:

• Laboratory Reagent/Supplies	9:01 am	November 25, 2005
• Drugs & Medicines Supplies	1:31 pm	November 25, 2005
• Medical Supplies/Med Gases/Oxygen	9:01 am	November 30, 2005
• Dental Supplies	10:31 am	November 30, 2005
• Dietary/Foodstuff	9:01 am	December 1, 2005
• Radiology Supplies	11:01 am	December 1, 2005
• Maintenance Supplies	2:01 pm	December 1, 2005
• Janitorial Supplies	3:01 pm	December 1, 2005
• Laundry Service/Linen Supplies	9:01 am	December 2, 2005
• Janitorial Service	1:31 pm	December 2, 2005
• Hospital Equipment	9:00 am	December 5, 2005

Each **BID** must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the Approved Budget Cost per category in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet.

For further details, please contact the BAC Secretariat at tel. nos. **3099552** and Procurement Unit **3099516.**

THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID AND TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, AND REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ELEONORITA E. REYES**
Chairperson
SLH-Bids and Awards Committee

NOTED:
(Sgd.) **ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI - Oct 23 & 30, 2005)

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AREA I: Las Piñas, Makati, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasay and Pateros

CODE	LOCATION / DESCRIPTION	SELLING PRICE	
KBPI 86	Lot 2-A-1-H-2 (Formerly 2-A-1-H) Alabang Zapote Road, Las Piñas City. Commercial Lot, Improved by two (2) single storey building utilized as office and canteen. Building 1: FA - 104.00 sq.m. & Building 2: FA : 51.00 sq.m.; LA – 594 sq.m.	P	15,000,000
KBPI 266	Unit 2, Garden Homes, Aventino Hill St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City Improved by Two (2) Storey Residential Townhouse Type Unit ; Lot Area = 72 sq.m.; Tfloor Area = 108.25 sq.m.	P	930,000
	Office/Commercial Condo units located at #7305 Praise Condominium, Santillan St., Makati City		
KBPI 69	1. Unit 203 2/F, Floor Area – 155.497 sq.m.	P	4,664,910
KBPI 70	2. Unit 303 3/F; Floor Area – 144.307 sq.m.	P	4,329,210
KBPI 207	3. Unit 602 6/F; Floor Area - 34.674 sq.m.	P	1,040,220
KBPI 205	4. Unit 607 6/F; Floor Area - 29.331 sq.m.	P	879,930
KBPI 71	5. Unit 701 7/F, Floor Area – 255.003 sq.m.	P	7,650,090
KBPI 72	6. Unit 801 8/F, Floor Area – 255.003 sq.m.	P	7,650,090
	Office/Commercial Condo units located at The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City		
KBPI 161	1. Unit 222, 2/F; Floor Area – 145.06 sq.m.	P	8,692,155
KBPI 162	2. Unit 223, 2/F; Floor Area – 192.05 sq.m.	P	11,507,845
KBPI 237	No 130 Lot 33 Blk 25 Everlasting Circle Road, South Greenheight Subdivision Putatan, Muntinlupa City Improved by One (1) storey residential building with basement. FA – 235.5 sq.m. ; LA – 360 sq.m.	P	3,030,000
KBPI 266	Unit 205, 2nd floor Bayview Tower I, Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque CityResidential Unit / Floor Area 105 sq.m.	P	4,000,000
KBPI 211	Lot 8 Blk 9, No 9, Rainbow St., Bricktown Subd., Moonwalk Village, Parañaque Cityimproved by two (2) storey residential building Floor Area – 360 sq.m. ; Lot Area – 518 sq.m	P	6,000,000
KBPI 212	Belmont Southpark Townhomes, United Hills Subd., Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City Consist of 20 Units / Floor Area ranging from 95.34 sq.m. to 182.45 sq.m.	P	12,000/ sq.m.
KBPI 176	Chingkang St., Brgy. San Jose, Pasay City Two adjoining lots with a house. Lot Area – 600 sq.m.	P	8,500,000
KBPI 272	No. 19897 Tulip cor., Pine St., Executive Heights Parañaque City Improved by: Single Storey Split Level Residential House Lot Area = 409 sq.m. Floor Area = 216.26 sq.m.	P	4,500,000
KBPI 270	No. 6110 Santol St., Marcelo Green Village, Phase 4, Brgy. Marcelo Green, Parañaque City Improved by unfinished Two (2) Storey with Attic and Two (2) Storey Residential Townhouse Type Buildings. Lot Area = Lot A = 38.50 sq.m.; Lot B = 55 sq.m. and Lot D = 38.25 sq.m.	P	2,700,000
KBPI 279	No. 6110 Santol St., Marcelo Green Village, Phase 4, Brgy. Marcelo Green, Parañaque City. Vacant Lot; Lot Area = Lot 4C = 39 sq.m.; Lot 4E = 49.25 sq.m. and Lot 4F = 39 sq.m.	P	620,000
KBPI 273	Unit No 206-B Hamilton Condominium Bldg. Lakeview Manors Condominium Complex Phase 2, Bagong Calzada, Bo. of Ususan, Taguig, Metro, Manila Improved by Two (2) Bedroom Type Residential Condominium Unit with Floor Area = 37.50 sq.m.; Drying Area (Rooftdeck) with Floor Area = 6.50 sq.m.	P	940,000

AREA II: Caloocan, Mandaluyong, Manila, Pasig, Quezon City and San Juan

KBPI 257	No 75 Pangomban St., Bo. Catalunan, Caloocan City Improved by 4-Storey concrete residential apartment type building Lot Area – 94 sq.m. ; Floor Area – 305.82 sq.m.	P	4,500,000
KBPI 274	Lot 1, Blk. 11 Mohave cor. Kamagong Street, Hillcrest Village, Novaliches, Caloocan City Improved by: Two (2) Storey Residential Bldg. with Lot Area = 176 sq.m.; Floor Area = 108 sq.m.	P	1,600,000
KBPI 238	No. 143 Buayang Bato St., Mandaluyong City Improved with a Two (2) storey building. Lot Area - 95 sq.m.; Floor Area – 144 sq.m.	P	1,200,000
KBPI 147	No 2965 Clemente Street cor. Gabriel Street, Tondo, Manila Improved by a two (2) Storey Residential Building and Candy Factory with rooftdeck Lot Area – 172.00 sq.m.; Floor Area – 156.00 sq.m.	P	3,500,000
KBPI 265	Imperial Bay Front Tower, No. 1642 Mabini St., Malate, Manila Unit No. 8 – One (1) Bedroom and 1-Toilet and Bath with Floor Area – 29.36 sq.m. Unit No. 7 – One (1) Bedroom and 1-Toilet and Bath with Floor Area – 29.40 sq.m. Unit No. 1 – One (1) Bedroom and 1-Toilet and Bath with Floor Area – 28.20 sq.m.	P P P	1,180,800 1,250,000 1,250,000
KBPI 240	Unit 505 5th Floor, One Magnificent Mile Tower Condo, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Commercial & Office Space Floor Area – 65.17 sq.m.	P	4,900,000
KBPI 108 KBPI 169 KBPI 171 KBPI 172 KBPI 267	Las Villas Del Cielo Townhomes, Brgy. Culiat, Tandang Sora, Quezon City Improved by Two (2) storey residential (townhouse type) condo unit with carport. With three (3) bedrooms and two (2) toilet and bathrooms: 1. Unit 35 – Lot Area – 58.15 sq.m. / Total Floor Area – 102.50 sq.m. 2. Unit 36 – Lot Area – 58.12 sq.m. / Total Floor Area – 101.99 sq.m. 3. Unit 84 – Lot Area – 52.48 sq.m. / Total Floor Area – 98 sq.m. 4. Unit 89 – Lot Area – 58.17 sq.m. / Total Floor Area - 101.75 sq.m. 5. Unit 90 – Lot Area – 58.17 sq.m. /Total Floor Area - 103.73 sq.m.	P	1,500,000 1,750,000 1,800,000 1,850,000 1,800,000
KBPI 187	No. 57, Samar Avenue, Brgy. South Triangle, Quezon City Bungalow with basement and concrete framed building. It has two (2) living rooms, dining room, open terrace with rock garden, foyer, patio, lanai, four (4) bedrooms, six (6) T & Bs. maid quarter, kitchen, storage room, and laundry area at the GF, and family room, guest rooms, library, three (3) T & Bs. driver's quarter and garage at the basement level. Lot Area – 1,500 sq.m. ; Total Floor Area – 555 sq.m.	P	29,900,000
KBPI 191	No. 12, Jade Street, Imelda Village, Brgy. Bahay Toro, Quezon City Improved by a two-level residential building with a single-storey extension type structure. With 3 bedrooms and 2 T & Bs. Lot Area – 252 sq.m.; Floor Area – 192.01 sq.m.	P	3,000,000
KBPI 100 KBPI 101	Ivory Crest Mansion, Gilmore Avenue corner 11TH St., New Manila, Quezon City 1. Unit 3 : Floor Area – 274.65sq.m. 2. Unit 12 : Floor Area - 264.44sq.m.	P	7,000,000 7,000,000
KBPI 267	Unit 102 Regalia Park, Tower B., P. Tuazon, Cubao, Quezon City Floor Area – 54.04 sq.m.	P	2,500,000
KBPI 214	Vermont Square Townhomes, Sunshine Compound, Brgy. Crame, Cubao, Quezon CityConsist of Four (4) Units Condominium. 1. VS- 7 : Floor Area – 174.20 sq.m. 2. VS-10 : Floor Area – 174.20 sq.m. 3. VS-14 : Floor Area – 174.20 sq.m. 4. VS-17 : Floor Area – 174.20 sq.m.	P	3,100,000 each
KBPI 280	No. 3 Maunawain St., East Avenue, Quezon City Improved by Residential Building (Bungalow Type)Lot Area – 432 sq.m. Aggrt., Total Floor Area – 209.35 sq.m.	P	6,000,000
KBPI 117 KBPI 118 KBPI 119	Luxor Villas Townhomes, Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila Four (4) storey concrete bldg. with parking space. 1. Unit 4 : Floor Area – 280.00sq.m. 2. Unit 5 : Floor Area – 280.00sq.m. 3. Unit 9 : Floor Area – 280.00sq.m.	P	8,500,000 each
KBPI 264	N. Domingo Street, San Juan, Metro Manila Improved by one (1) storey concrete building (Office Building) Lot Area – 490sq.m.; Floor Area - 135sq.m.	P	18,000,000
KBPI 193	No. 140 G. Reyes Street, Balong Bato, San Juan, Metro Manila Interior lot improved by a single-storey residential building with covered carport. With 4 bedrooms and 2 T & Bs. Lot Area – 250 sq.m. / Floor Area – 154.10 sq.m.	P	3,200,000
KBPI 281	Along and Interior Kabesang Tino Road, Balangkas, Valenzuela Vacant Lot; Lot Area – 4,987 sq.m. (Aggr'l)	P	1,500,000

AREA III: Rizal Area

KBPI 55	Lot 10, Block 1, Mission Hills, Brgy. Muzon, Angono, Rizal Vacant Residential Lot with an area of 894 sq.m. Fully developed residential subdivision which is few kilometers away from Antipolo Town Proper. Equipped with basic amenities and utilities of a middle to upper middle class subd.	P	1,700,000
KBPI 241	2 Duplex located at Lot 12 & 13 Block 23 Ridgemont Avenue, Twin Peak Drive, Ridgemont Executive Subdivision, Taytay, Rizal Lot 12, Lot Area – 176 sq.m. & Lot 13, Lot Area - 186 sq.m. ; Floor Area – 408.44 sq.m.	P	4,200,000
KBPI 258	Lot 1 Leonardo cor. M. Borja St., Brgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal Improved by One (1) Storey 27 Door Residential Apartment Building Lot Area – 677 sq.m.; Floor Area – 605.16 sq.m.	P	4,800,000
KBPI 282	Lot 10 Blk. 14 Cotton Drive, Cottonwoods Heights, Antipolo City Improved by Two (2) Storey Residential Building Lot Area – 213 sq.m.; Total Floor Area – 112.50 sq.m.	P	2,700,000
KBPI 283	Lot 10 Blk. 6, Road Lot 5, Goldland Eastwood Townhomes, Beaver St., Village East Executive Homes, Cainta, Rizal Improved by Two (2) Storey Residential Townhouse – Type Residential Building Lot Area – 51 sq.m., Total Floor Area – 88.60 sq.m.	P	1,200,000

AREA IV: South Luzon Area

KBPI 269	Lot 11177-A-1, Barangay Anilao, Lipa City, Batangas Lot Area – 10,000 sq.m.	P	3,000,000
KBPI 233	No. 63 N. Gonzales St., Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Tanauan, Batangas Improved by Three (3) Storey School Building with H E and Clinic Building Lot Area - Aggregate 1,113 sq.m. / Ground Floor – 812.52 sq.m. 2nd Floor – 797.4 sq.m.3rd Floor – 788.4 sq.m. / H E Building – 60 sq.m. / Clinic – 17.5 sq.m.	P	18,000,000
KBPI 295	No. 45 G.A. Solis St., Brgy. Poblacion Lipa City, Batangas Improved by Two (2) Storey Commercial Bldg.; Lot Area – 1,782 sq.m.; Tfloor Area – 1,054.275 sq.m.	P	47,000,000
KBPI 61	Capitol Hills Executive Subdivision, Trece Martirez City, Cavite Various Vacant Residential Lots – 169 lots ranging from 39 sq.m. to 72 sq.m. lot area. Classified as low to economy housing subdivision. The subdivision is located at the rear side of Cavite Capitol within the Trece Martirez Town Proper. It is a fully developed subdivision.	P	1,800/sq.m.
KBPI 196	Rodeo Hills Subdivision, Alfonso, Cavite Vacant Residential lots – 10 Lots ranging from 320 sq.m. to 668 sq.m. lot area Vacant Residential Lots – 30 Lots ranging from 320 sq.m. to 668 sq.m. lot area	P P	1,500/sq.m. 1,400/sq.m. to 2,500/sq.m.
KBPI 197	Rodeo Countryside Estate, Alfonso, Cavite Consists of two (2) Vacant Residential Lots with lot areas of 1000 sq.m. and 2000 sq.m.	P	1,500/sq.m.
KBPI 242	Barangay Lanlik, Carmona CaviteLot Area – 17,700sq.m. + 16,324sq.m. + 1,536sq.m. = 35,560 sq.m. @ P1,700/sq.m.	P	40,000,000
KBPI 183	Lot 14 & 16, Blk. 29, Road 28, Town & Country Dasmariñas, Brgy. Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite Vacant Lot / Lot Area = 192 sq.m.	P	650,000
KBPI 194	Lot 33, Block 12, Cityview Dasmariñas III Subdivision, Bo. Malinta, Dasmariñas, Cavite Vacant lot with an area of 502 sq.m.	P	450,000
KBPI 271	Lot 7 Block 30 Stateland Subdivision, Phase I, Buenavista, General Trias, Cavite City Vacant Lot. Lot Area – 523 sq.m.	P	630,000
KBPI 293	Lot 23 Blk. 1, Road Lot 3, Sprngville Executive 2, Brgy. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite Improved by One (1) Storey Residential Unit; Lot Area – 150 sq.m.; Tfloor Area – 66 sq.m.	P	1,250,000
KBPI 294	Lot 27 Blk. 22, Cypress St., Manila Southwood – Phase 3, Brgy. Cabilang Baybay, Carmona Cavite – Vacant Lot. Lot Area – 524 sq.m.	P	2,800,000
KBPI 296	Lot 6 Blk. 3 Trails of La Marea, San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna Improved by Two (2) Storey Residential Building Lot Area – 226 sq.m.; Tfloor Area – 177 sq.m.	P	3,350,000
KBPI 114	Lot 853 Plan GSS-877 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 841 sq.m.	P	1,500,000
KBPI 222	Pennsylvania corner Utah Streets, Town & Country Southville Subd., Biñan, Laguna Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 202 sq.m.	P	750,000
KBPI 236	No 285 J. Gonzales St., Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna Aggregate Lot Area – 2,065 sq.m. Improved by: Bldg. 1: Two (2) Storey Commercial / Residential Building - TFA - 513.0 sq.m. Bldg 2: Movie House / TFA - 1,237.92 sq.m. Bldg 3: Single Storey Residential Building / FA - 158.65 sq.m.	P	35,000,000
KBPI 111	Tagaytay Hills, Tayasan, Legazpi City A lot uphill along Legazpi-Manito traverse road, improved by a two-storey residential building (upper level) while the lower level consists of 3-door apartment units. Location is about 5 kms. road-distant from Legazpi City Proper LA – 2,548 sq.m. / FA – 507.38 sq.m.	P	6,600,000
KBPI 112	Four (4) adjoining residential lots with a total area of 479 sq.m., situated along the Legazpi-Manito National Highway. With two-storey townhouse unit with basement. Overlooking Mayon Volcano.	P	3,100,000
KBPI 275	Lot 41, Blk. 1 Citta Italia Phase 2, Bacoor, Cavite Improved by: Two (2) storey Residential House – Medicci Model House Lot Area = 144 sq.m.; Floor Area = 60.48 sq.m.	P	1,500,000

AREA V: North Luzon Area

KBPI 10 KBPI 11	Unit #2 & Unit #3, Eagle Crest Townhouse Phase 1, Bakakeng Norte Road, Baguio City Townhouse Unit – LA – 120 sq.m. & FA – 102 sq.m.; Eagle crest is about 3 km. away from Marcos Highway; Within the vicinity are Tierra Crest Villas, Richmond Estate, Ciudad Grande & Richgate Subdivision; The unit is a 3-level townhouse w/ basement which consists of 2 big BR & 3 T&B ; It is also equipped with fireplace and water supply is substantial ; Public transportation is available within the site.	P	1,700,000 each
KBPI 250 KBPI 290 KBPI 291 KBPI 292	Kabukiran Homes Subdivision, Barangay Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan 1. Block 1 Lot 4 : Lot Area – 79 sq.m. ; Floor Area – 42 sq.m. 2. Block 7 Lot 10: Lot Area – 175 sq.m. / Floor Area – 30.25 sq.m. 3. Block 9 Lot 55 (Along Alley 5): Vacant Lot – Lot Area – 78 sq.m. 4. Block 9 Lot 43 (Road Lot 8 cor. Alley 5) Vacant Lot – Lot Area 75 sq.m.	P	265,500 401,000 127,000 112,500
KBPI 243	383 Bonuan Binloc, Dagupan City 2 Storey residential building – 93% Finished Lot Area – 219 sq.m. ; Floor Area – 176.50 sq.m.	P	1,700,000
KBPI 225	Lot 1-I-2, Brgy. Perez Ilang, Poblacion, San Carlos City, Pangasinan Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 272 sq.m.	P	122,400
KBPI 277	Lot 4-A-11, Brgy. San Jose, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan Improved by: - One (1) Storey Residential Bldg ; Floor Area = 104.4 sq.m. - Two (2) Storey Residential Bldg. (81% Finished) Floor Area = 53.6 sq.m. - Warehouse (72.5% Finished) Floor Area = 283.6 sq.m. Lot Area = 1,402 sq.m	P	5,300,000

AREA VI: Visayas and Mindanao Area

KBPI 182	Brgy. Hagdan, Guinatican Island, Sta. Fe, Cebu City Vacant agricultural land, 0.81 ha. Consisting of four (4) adjoining lots and is being classified as Agricultural. It is about 600 meters away from Hagdan Elementary School. (Tax Declaration only)	P	100,000
KBPI 264	Tayud, Lilo-An, Cebu Improved by Bungalow – Single Detached Lot Area – 1,023 sq.m.; Total Floor Area – 216 sq.m.	P	2,800,000
KBPI 232	Bo. Agus, Lapu – Lapu City Vacant Lot / Lot Area – 1,835 sq.m.	P	2,200,000
KBPI 151	Corner Muelle Loney Street, Iloilo City Vacant Lot. Approximately 100 meters southeast of Iznart Street and about 1 km. from Iloilo City Hall. Lot Area – 914 sq.m.	P	12,000,000
KBPI 160	L. J. Ledesma Subdivision, Brgy. Buhang, Jaro, Iloilo City Consisting of 63 vacant residential Lots with an average area of 60 sq.m. Site is approximately 15 minutes drive from the city proper.	P	1,500/sq.m.
KBPI 185	Petalsville Subdivision, Brgy. Tabuk Suba, Jaro, Iloilo City Vacant lots with partial developed residential subdivision, consisting of 192 lots with an aggregate area of 48,419 sq.m., Approximately 400 meters northwest from the national road and about 2 kms. Northeast of Municipality of Jaro.	P	800/sq.m. to 1,000/sq.m.,
KBPI 205	Brgy. Gawahon, Sibu, Padios, Sara, Iloilo City Four (4) adjoining lots mostly utilized as riceland, improved by a split level residential / farm house with five (5) bedrooms. Aggregate Lot Area – 229,572 sq.m. ; Floor Area – 336 sq.m.	P	2,500,000
KBPI 229	Emerald St., Ecoland Subd., Phase IV, Barangay Matina, Davao City Improved by one (1) storey residential building Lot Area – 470 sq.m.; Floor Area – 120 sq.m.	P	2,500,000
KBPI 296	No. 10 Ilang-Ilang Street Phase 1, Panorama Homes Subd., Brgy. Buhangin, Davao Cityimproved by One (1) Storey Residential Building; Lot Area – 279 sq.m., Tfloor Area – 154.85 sq.m.	P	1,400,000
KBPI 249	Interior Macrohon Drive, Canelar Paint Trade Center Canelar St., Zamboanga City With proposed two (2) storey apartment building (35% Finished) Lot Area – 665 sq.m. ; Floor Area – 143.40 sq.m.	P	4,000,000
KBPI 234	Capisan, Upper San Roque, Zamboanga CityVacant Lot / Lot Area – 9,491 sq.m.	P	95,000
KBPI 93	No. 28-A Sta. Barbara, Zamboanga City House & Lot – LA-500 sq.m.; FA-191.70 sq.m. Two (2) adjoining lots with a total area of 500 sq.m. (250 sq.m. per lot), improved by a concrete single-storey residential building with a floor area of 144.27 sq.m. With five (5) bedrooms and two (2) toilet & bathrooms.	P	1,600,000
KBPI 235	No. 29 Quezon Avenue, Colabalo Cityimproved by: One (1) Storey Residential Building / Two (2) Storey Residential Building & Six (6) doors Apartment. Aggregate Lot Area – 811 sq.m. ; Floor Area – 369.98 sq.m.	P	10,000,000
KBPI 226	Barrio Buis, General Santos CityVacant Lot / Lot Area – 6,824 sq.m.	P	2,400,000
KBPI 247	Peres Subdivision, Purok Matakas, General Santos City One (1) storey residential building with roof deck and basement. Lot Area – 300 sq.m./ Floor Area – 150 sq.m.	P	900,000

Prices, interest rates and terms are subject to change without prior notice.

"GENERAL GUIDELINES"

1. The BUYER receives and accepts the property on an "AS-IS WHERE-IS" basis. "AS-IS WHERE-IS" basis shall mean that the SELLER makes no warranty as to the quality and physical condition of the property and that the BUYER buys and takes it in the condition that it is found and from the place where it is located, as well as all legal actions and encumbrances on the property that the BUYER knows or ought to know.
2. Buyers are enjoined to personally inspect / investigate/verify the actual site, condition, and status of the real-properties and improvements, if any, and chattels as well as all the documents of ownership with the appropriate Register of Deeds before formally submitting their offers. Buyers are also advised that some of the above properties are subject of on-going litigation proceedings.
3. Properties will be sold on a "First-come First -serve basis. The term "first-come, first-serve" shall mean any offer to purchase in cash based on the price indicated herein shall be given first priority. Offer to purchase thru term financing via Bank loan shall be evaluated for management approval.
4. Keppel Bank reserves the right to reject any offer to purchase which are below the price indicated here'in. The decision of Keppel Bank is final and binding

ALL BROKERS ARE WELCOME!!!

(PDI – October 23, 2005)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-106-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Projet : Supply & Delivery of 1.5 million decks of Playing Cards

Approved Budget : One Million Eight Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars (US$ 1,800,000.00) (Note: CIF - Port of Manila)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the **Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section** (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the Bid Documents available for issuance from **October 21, 2005 to December 7, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Seven & 50/100 Pesos (Php 5,287.50).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Pre-bid Conference	November 8, 2005 (10 am)
Submission of Bids (Envelope 1, 2, & 3)	December 8, 2005 (2 pm)
Opening of Bids (Envelope 1 & 2)	December 8, 2005 (2 pm onwards)
Opening of Bids (Envelope 3)	January 13, 2006 (2 pm)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department, 2nd Floor, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila at telephone nos. 523-0577 or 524-3911.

(Sgd.) **RENE C. FIGUEROA**
Chairperson, BAC 2
(PDI - Oct 23 & 30, 2005)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No.: 10-114-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : One (1) Lot Janitorial Service for Casino Filipino-Heritage Required Personnel: 82 Janitors

Approved Budget : Twelve Million Nine Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Three & 44/100 (P 12,987,973.44)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from October 17, 2005 to November 11, 2005** at the BBAC Secretariat, Procurement and Property Office of Casino Filipino - Heritage upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three & 98/100 Pesos (Php 6,493.98).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretary handling the project.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	
Pre-Bid Conference	October 27, 2005	(2 pm)
Submission of Bids	November 14, 2005	(2 pm)
Opening of Bids	November 14, 2005	(2 pm onwards)

VENUE: Casino Filipino – Heritage, EDSA cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BBAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BBAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) **ROBERTO S. VALMADRID**
Chairperson, BBAC CF-Heritage
(PDI - Oct 16 & 23, 2005)

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Point of Sales System Hardware Project

Supply and Delivery of Point of Sales (POS) Terminals

1. **DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES**, a sector of the Philippine Tourism Authority, through the **Corporate Budget of Duty Free Philippines, 2005** intends to apply the sum of **Eighteen Million Pesos (PhP18,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Purchase Request (PR) # 2005100354.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES** now invites bids from eligible bidders for the ***Supply and Delivery of eighty (80) units all black POS Terminals.*** Delivery is on **March 16, 2006**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements. The contract shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB)
4. Interested bidders may obtain information from **Duty Free Philippines** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below, from 9:00AM to 5.00PM, and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of **Ten Thousand Pesos (PhP 10,000.00)** in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Duty Free Philippines will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 9, 2005, 10:00AM at the address given below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 21, 2005 10:30AM. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Cash Bond/Manager's Check (1% of ABC) in the amount of **One Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (PhP180,000.00)** or Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC) in the amount of **Two Hundred and Seventy Thousand Pesos (PhP270,000.00).** Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on November 21, 2005 11:00AM at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
9. The bidder must have at least five (5) completed contracts, as of November 9, 2005, in the supply and delivery of POS terminals, in any reputable local retail establishments with similar operations as Duty Free Philippines (department stores, supermarkets, hypermarts, and specialty stores) that has all the following minimum conditions present in at least one (1) branch:
   - At least One million (1M) number of transactions per year
   - At least Twelve (12) connected and active POS terminals
   - At least One Hundred Thousand (100,000) active SKUs or items being sold
10. Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES
ARNEL CALAPAS
Member, BAC Secretariat
EHA Bldg. FiestaMall, Columbia Complex, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City
(632)879-36-69 / 879-36-66 Fax No. (632) 879-36-64
bacsecretariat@dfp.com.ph **http://www.dfp.com.ph**

(SGD) **MA.LOURDES D. VELARDE**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 16 & 23, 2005)

PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Invitation to Pre-Qualify/ Apply for Eligibility

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), a project funded by the US Agency for International Development and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc. under contract number 492-C-00-04-00036-00 intends to hire the services of local institutions for the conduct of **Grants Proposal Development Training.**

The PRISM project is focused on three components, namely: 1) increased **workplace** support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers. Specifically, the Grants Program is designed to fund activities that help achieve the results focused on the three project components.

PRISM is inviting interested local institutions or firms to submit Letters of Intent for Pre-Qualification/Eligibility for the conduct of the training. The Grants Proposal Development Training is expected to be organized on a per need basis for a period of three years. Participants of the training will come from various non-government and private sector organizations nationwide which are interested to apply for a PRISM grant. PRISM anticipates short-listing a number of firms which can conduct the training on a year-round basis.

Pre-qualification Documents

Interested parties are requested to submit the following documents:

1) Letter of Intent
2) Company Profile
3) Photocopy of SEC-registration certificate
4) Audited financial statement for 2004
5) List of relevant experience which provide details of work done related to conduct of training on proposal development
6) List of professional facilitators or resource persons

Eligibility Criteria

PRISM will assess eligibility based on the following:

1) Relevant experience in designing and conducting proposal development training
2) Qualification of facilitators, resource persons who will design and conduct the trainings
3) Familiarity with USAID grants or subcontracting procedures
4) Capacity and ability to organize conduct of trainings in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

The deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents is set on November 11, 2005 on or before 5:00 pm.

The application must be submitted to:

Mr. Roldan B. Ramos, Sub-Contract Specialist
23/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
22 F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Pasig City
Telephone number: 635 2397 local 226

Interested parties may attend the pre-qualification conference scheduled on October 28, 2005 Friday at 10 am. The conference will be held at the PRISM office.

PRISM reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(PDI - Oct. 23 & 26, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : October 6, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bauang – San Esteban 230 kV Line 2 Stringing Project (Sp05.BSETL.LI-0048)

Installation of Insulator String Assemblies and Stringing of 795 MCM ACSR Conductors on Line 2 side of the Bauang – San Esteban 230 kV Double Circuit Steel Tower Transmission Lines. The Project is located the Provinces of La Union and Ilocos Sur in the Northern Part of Luzon.

1. The **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)**, through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing board, intends to apply the sum of **Sixteen Million Two Hundred Ninety Five Thousand One Hundred Eighty Six (Php 16, 295,186.00)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Bauang – San Esteban 230 kV Line 2 Stringing Project (Sp05.BSETL.LI-0048)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials specified to be furnished by TransCo) supplies and tools to complete the stringing works of the Project.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before the date and time at the address given below, and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of non-refundable fee, also stated below. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a **"pass/ fail"** basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents stated below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:
   License Particular : at least Category "B", SP-Electrical Works
   Registration Particular : at least "Medium A", SP-Electrical Works
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **TransCo** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the BCMD at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee stated below. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting from the schedule specified below.
6. **TransCo** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on the schedule stated below.
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before the schedule of submission and opening specified below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. The Contractor shall complete the works within **One Hundred Eighty (180)** calendar days counted from the effective date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
9. **TransCo** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

	Activity	Date/Time	Venue
a	Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting October 10, 2005 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
b	Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	November 3, 2005, 1:30 PM	De La Paz Function Room Training Center Bldg., TransCo, Diliman, Quezon City
c	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting November 18, 2005, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BCMD office address below
d	Pre-bid Conference	December 8, 2005, 1:30 PM	BCMD office address below
e	Bid Submission & Opening	December 22, 2005, 9:00 AM	BCMD office address below

Cost of Eligibility Documents per copy	P 800.00
Cost of Bidding Documents per copy	P 7,000.00

Mr. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City 1104
Telephone Nos.: 981-2306; 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No.: 921-2306
Email Address: jmilagan@transco.ph
Website Address: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – Oct. 10 & 23, 2005)

SAT-A

Sumidenso Automotive Technologies Asia Corp. (SAT-A), is an affiliate of Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd., the third largest manufacturer of automotive wiring systems worldwide.

SAT-A, located at Clark Special Economic Zone, Clarkfield, Pampanga is in need of highly skilled individuals focused in the development, maintenance and support of its CAD System. This is a global network system that is utilized in about 50 technical centers and W/H factories located in 25 countries worldwide, including the US, Europe and Asia.

Position : Systems Engineers / Programmers
Network Specialist / System Administrators

Qualifications:

1. Experience in C, Visual C++ and Java
2. Knowledge of Unix and/or Windows
3. Graduate of any 4-year course
4. Fluent in English and Filipino
5. Must be willing to work full time at Clarkfield, Pampanga

It is an exciting time to be a part of our dynamic team and experience the countless benefits.

- We offer a competitive compensation package
- We have a career system for our employees to achieve objectives and targets easily
- Business trips / Travel Opportunities to different offices and supported centers also await the successful candidates.

Candidates must be willing to work full time, able to adapt easily to the working environment and work with minimum supervision.

Interested applicants may call SAT-A at telephone numbers 045 599 5518 (Clark, Pampanga) or 867 5280 (Manila), Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Look for Ms. Hazel Yutuc

DUTY FREE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

CONTRACT	APPROVED BUDGET OF CONTRACT
2005-2006 JANITORIAL AND ALLIED SERVICES Area I – (Fiestamall & EHA Bldg.) Area II – (Integrated Warehouse, NAIA 1 & 2)	 Php 18,021,774.96 6,148,399.80

The prospective service provider should:

1. have at least ten (10) year experience in the field of janitorial services and doing business with retail establishment;
2. have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under lease-purchase available for the performance of the project;
3. Filipino citizen/sole proprietorships, organization with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to Filipino citizen.

The Approved Budget of the Contract is chargeable against DFP Corporate Fund. The contract duration is for one (1) year.

Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from the Purchasing Department, Duty Free Philippines, EHA Bldg., N. Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City on October 27 & 28, 2005 (Thursday & Friday), from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) in the form of cash. Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on November 11, 2005 (Friday) at 1:00 PM, EHA 3rd floor, Executive Lounge. Submission and opening of bids and eligibility check shall be on November 22, 2005 (Tuesday) for Area I and December 13, 2005 (Tuesday) for Area II at 9:00 AM, EHA Bldg. 3rd floor Training Room. Bids submitted after the deadline shall not be accepted. All applicants shall be notified on the results of the eligibility check.

Eligible janitorial agencyies may bid in both contract. However, only one (1) contract shall be awarded to the bidder.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Instruction to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, DFP reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) MA. LOURDES D. VELARDE
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 16 & 23, 2005)

CS

You are invited to

THE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR

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by Deepak Chopra

SPEECH & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
Your Vocal Image
Tongue Twisters
The Five Principles of Speech
The Sounds of Speech
Pronunciation

Sunday, December 11, 2005 8:00am 5:00pm
At the Kalayaan Sunset Lounge, 24th Fl.,
Exportbank Conference Center, Exportbank Plaza,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Tickets are P3,000.00 each only; Lunch & Snacks Included
For Details, Call COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS
892-9502 to 03; 845-0886

PROFILE OF MR. VERNON C. TAPALLA

A writer for several publications and constant world traveler who received his training in New York and California, he has achieved innumerable successes, the highlight of which is the creation of his own consulting firm, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS AND THE WRITING INSTITUTE.

His offices in Makati and Alabang are utilized for training in several communications areas such as Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Personality Development, and Business Writing.

His clients in the last few years include Hewlett-Packard, Siemens, Stores Specialists, RCBC, Caltex, Ayala Life, The Aboitiz Group, All-Asia Capital, Phil. Fuji Xerox, ICTSI, The Dept. of Trade & Industry, The Dept. of Agriculture, Central Bank, and The Development Bank of the Philippines.

He has been awarded twice for his efforts: A Jose Rizal Young Professional Award for Business and Industry in 1999, and an Asia-Pacific Young Professional Award for Language and Communication in 2005, given by the Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards and The National Consumers Affairs Foundation to outstanding young achievers from the region.

His seminars are very much in demand, as his dynamic, high-impact approach compels participants to ultimately change the way they think, communicate, and live.

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
2/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. No. 929-8734, TL 9205521 loc.3517

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. invites contractors/suppliers to apply for prequalification for the following specialty works:

- Supply and Installation of Pumps (Submersible Booster Pumps, Centrifugal Pumps)
- Supply and Installation of Variable Frequency Drives
- Supply and Installation of Flowmeter (Ultrasonic and Fullbore)
- Repair and Maintenance of Programmable Logic Controller (Pulsator)
- Chemical Dosing Feeder Pumps
- Valve Refurbishment
- Supply and Installation of Diesel Engine Generator Sets
- Supply and Installation of Flash Mixers

Interested applicants, with experience in similar works, may submit company profile which includes legal documents, company registration/licenses, work experience, organization, current workload and financial statement for the last three (3) years. The required documents must be submitted at the following address:

CONTRACTS SERVICES
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT GROUP
2nd Floor, PPD, MWSI Office, MWSS Cmpd.,
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
(Telefax: 929-87-34)

Only prequalified applicants will be invited to submit bid for the aforementioned works.

(Sgd.) ARNULFO R. RAMIREZ
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI--Oct. 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-BAC) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and bid for the re-bidding of the Department's **HEALTH CARE SERVICE CONTRACT.**

Approved Budget for the Contract:
Php 31,000,000.00 : Package A (coverage for regular and casual employees)
Php 7,000,000.00 : Package B (coverage for contractual employees)

Interested bidders may acquire bid documents from **24 October 2005** to **10 November 2005,** at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Bldg, 2330 Roxas Blvd. Pasay City, (tel. nos. 834-4066 and fax nos. 831-95-84), upon submission of **Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00)** to the Cashier's Office, Office of Fiscal Management, 4th Floor, DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Applications for eligibility and bid evaluation shall use the non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE
Pre-bid Conference	11 November 2005
Last Day of Submission of Bid Requirements	23 November 2005
Opening of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	23 November 2005

DFA-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, and to waive any deficiencies and required formalities embodied therein. DFA-BAC assumes no obligations whatsoever to offset the expenses and/or losses the bidder may have incurred in the preparation of the bids. DFA-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, and/or not to award the contract, and makes no assurances that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the invitation.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, DFA-BAC

PDI--Oct. 23 & 30, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE is hereby given that **CELIA ALCARAZ BAYAN** of No. 38 Margarita Street, Magallanes Village, Makati City is not in any capacity authorized by **JCA BAYAN CORPORATION, ANGELINA A. BAYAN** and **JAIME A. BAYAN** to transact in its/ their behalf regarding any of its/their properties (e.g. parcels of land, shares of stock, money placements). She cannot likewise be authorized by **ATANACIO BAYAN** because he has long died.

Any transaction entered into by said **Celia Alcaraz Bayan** in behalf of the above-named corporation and/ or persons will not be honored and must be immediately reported to **FALCON LAW OFFICES, Unit 1608 Corporate Center, Sedeño corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City with tel. nos 7521347 to 49 or fax no. 7521346.**

(PDI--Oct. 23, 2005)

Nestlé Philippines, Inc.

Notice is given that Official Receipts Nos. 2448238 - 2448250 has been reported lost since 16 September 2005. Any transaction entered into using these documents shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI-Oct. 16 & 23, 2005)

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

In Loving Memory
on the 29th Death Anniversary of

Adalia B. Peñaflorida

who passed away on 24 October 1976.

Masses will be offered tomorrow, Monday, 24 October 2005 at the following:

Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park ..... 12:15 noon
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills ..... 7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes ..... 6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love, Merville ..... 6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P. ..... 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, Pototan, Iloilo ..... 5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church, La Paz, Iloilo ..... 5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

DR. FRANCISCO C. TIBURCIO (D.D.M.)

Masses will be offered at the following churches on October 23, 2005.

St. Basil Kingsly, *California USA* ..... 6:00 am
St. Brendan, *California USA* ..... 6:00 am
Our Lady of the Abandoned, *Marikina City* ..... 6:00 am
Holy Family Parish, *Marikina City* ..... 6:00 am
Our Mother of Perpetual Help, *Baclaran* ..... 6:00 am
San Jose Parish, *Iloilo City* ..... 5:30 am
St. Clement's Church, *Iloilo City* ..... 6:00 am
Sta. Teresita, *Iloilo City* ..... 6:00 am
Tanza Parish Church, *Iloilo City* ..... 6:00 am
Sta. Clara Monastery, *Katipunan, Q.C.* ..... 6:00 am

His loving wife: **Ning**, children: **Blen & Geoff, Shiela & Philip**, grandchildren: **Nicole, Jason & Lauren** request relatives and friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

GEORGE ONG TAN CHIONG SIN

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 12, 2005

His remains were cremated on October 15, 2005.

His bereaved wife **Luiz**; children **Gilbert & Evangeline; Girlie & Dennis; Genevieve; Geoffrey**; Grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

DAPHNE DREW V. RAMOS

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 21, 2005 at the age of 3.

Her bereaved parents **Magiting "Mags" Ramos** and **Pia Marie Valdes Ramos**; her younger brother **Lance Dylan V. Ramos**; her grandparents **Atty. Teodoro Ramos & Trinidad San Diego Ramos** and **Titus Valdes & Gloria Tayag Valdes**, relatives, friends and classmates are requested to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.**

Interment will be on **October 25, 2005 at 3:00 P.M.** at **Himlayang Pilipino, after 1:00 P.M. Mass.**

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

DR. ERNESTO AREVALO ESTOR, SR.
"Bing"

(April 19, 1948 – October 21, 2005)

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 57.

His beloved wife **Linda Vizcarra**, son **Sonny** & wife **Sheila Ferrer**, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 8, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave. Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino, Q. C.
Date to be announced later.

CITY GOVERNMENT OF MANILA
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The Power of Knowing

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Memories EXPO

An exhibit especially organized to bring together products and services relating to Death Care and more

Bonifacio Shrine
(beside Manila City Hall)
October 25-26, 2005

CLASSIFIEDS

Memories Expo: An Expo for the Death Care Industry

AS ALL SOULS DAY NEARLY APPROACHES, THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila presents the "Memories Expo," an exhibit specially organized to bring together different products and services related to the death care industry. The event is organized to coincide with the publication of Memories 2. The expo will feature different companies and showcase their services to the public from funeral parlors, pre-need plans, florists, grief counseling, columbarium, memorial parks, catering, NGOs and suppliers from candles, coffins, tombstones, urns, etc. We invite everyone to visit the exhibitor's booths and get to know the latest trends and information. This is also your chance to buy your candles, flowers from Dangwa and other supplies for the All Souls Day this November 1. This two day event shall be held on October 25 and 26 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside Manila City Hall).

Get up to 60% discount on Permanent Hair Removal through Club G

SAY GOODBYE TO UNwanted hair, age spots, fine lines, wrinkles, and acne with Godiva Skin Station IPL treatments – now offered at slashed down prices exclusive to Club G members. Up to 60% discount on IPL treatments can be availed through Club G, an elite by-invitation-only club where members enjoy huge discounts on skin and body treatments, plus numerous rewards. There are three membership options, Silver, Gold or Platinum, which will entitle members to package discounts of 50%, 55% and 60% respectively.

IPL Permanent Hair Reduction treatments worth P50,000 can be availed of at only P20,000 by Club G Platinum members. That's 60% in-savings for IPL treatments that can be used for two full programs for removal of unwanted hair on the upper lip and underarms, or for 6 sessions of photorejuvenation to minimize age spots, fine lines and wrinkles. IPL utilizes the advanced version of Light and Heat Energy or LHE technology to treat a wide range of skin conditions and skin types. The clinically-proven LHE technology is safe, has no harmful side effects and ensures dramatic results for unwanted hair.

Other services such as facials, diamond peel, spider veins removal, warts removal, body massage, and non-surgical lift are also offered to Club G members at amazing discounts.

Club G members also have the privilege of inviting their friends to become members as well. Not only will their friends enjoy Godiva Skin Station's products and facial and body care services, they can also earn generous rewards points which they can collect, save and redeem.

Sign up to Club G now and enjoy loads of rewards! For more information, contact Karla Perez at 0921-7687387 and Emmalyne Prado at 0920-3417505 or call 751-6140 (Makati Bel-Air branch) and 939-1105 (SM Fairview branch).

Managing labor relations in a unionized setting

IN A UNIONIZED ENVIRONment, the enterprise will not operate effectively unless it has a stable and harmonious relationship with the union and its members.

But how can enterprises maintain industrial peace with a union around? What approach should human resource managers take on to manage labor relations in a unionized environment?

These and other questions will be answered by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) when it conducts a Seminar on Managing Labor Relations in a Unionized Setting in the last week of November at the Ecop Center, Makati City. This seminar aims to avoid costly labor litigations and unnecessary strikes and work stoppages.

Ecop President Rene Y. Soriano noted that handling people in a unionized environment possess a greater challenge to managers than working in a union-free setting. "The role of a manager as a motivator, negotiator, and facilitator is put to a test in a unionized environment. Awareness of the challenge is only the first step. Training of managers in the intricacies of the pertinent provisions of the law and Constitution, handling discipline, terminations, and grievances are so important to be left to unskilled supervisors and managers," he stressed.

For inquiries, please call Ms. Jill Casia of the ECOP Training and Development Department at 890-4845, 890-4847, 899-0411.

Hope Christian High School alumni homecoming

CALLING ALL GRADUATES of Hope Christian High School! We will be celebrating the 59th founding anniversary of our beloved school on Nov. 28, 2005 at Le Pavillon, Macapagal Ave., Roxas Blvd., at 5 p.m.

The homecoming aims to revive our vision and objectives of bringing together the accomplished men and women which our beloved alma mater has nurtured and contributed to society and the country since its inception. 59 years of educating and raising up young impressionable children with proper values and good education is no mean feat. It would only be a fitting tribute to our alma mater to celebrate its anniversary.

Our new set of officers has assured us of a wonderful program, raffle prizes, good food and music to enhance the evening. It will also be a grand time to foster and renew relationships established over the years. We will also be getting a glimpse of all the future plans and projects that will offer better quality education facilities and services for the coming students of Hope High.

Hope we can all attend and give our all out support to our alma mater.

For further inquiries and reservations, please contact Cristina of Hope Christian High School at 254-8339, 254-8975 & 257-9496.

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Big business seen with new IT player

THREE CALL CENTER FIRMS, including a Fortune 500 company, are set to operate in the ESDSA CENTRAL Pavilion in Greenfield District, Mandaluyong City this year.

Edsa Central is poised to take a huge chunk of the Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) and Information Technology markets in terms of providing office space within the development and build-to-suit structures in its Mayflower Complex.

PC Mall subsidiary OSRP Inc., a publicly listed US company recently started operations at the Edsa Central Pavilion. The firm is a technology provider that markets various IT brands to individuals, small to medium-sized corporations, or anyone with an interest in putting up a business and needs to be technology-enabled, according to Jericho Go, Greenfield Dev't. Corp. VP for business development and leasing.

Two tenants—one of the largest contact center outsourcers in the US market and a Fortune 500 global computer firm—will be housed in the Pavilion before year-end. Go shares the computer company's initial plan is broken up in three phases: 400-500 seats for the fourth quarter of 2005; 400-800 in the second phase; 800-1,000 seats in the third exploratory phase. Edsa Central's move to be an IT hub does not downplay its retail advantage but is a step to becoming a center where people and business converge.

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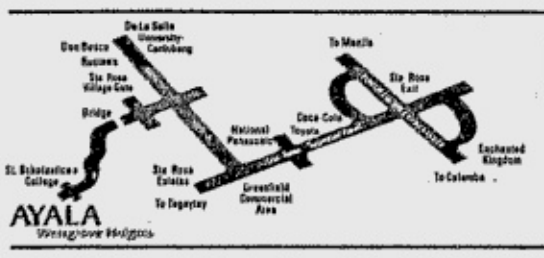

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2005 C1

Text your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

SHAKERS OF THE WORLD. Swatch prime mover Virgie Ramos (center in light green), I Can Serve founding president Kara Alikpala and HSBC CEO Warner Manning with celebrities Rachel Alejandro, Geneva Cruz, Agot Isidro, Rissa Samson, Matteo Guidicelli, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Joyce Oreña and Mikee Cojuangco

Shakin' and stirrin' against the Big C

THE FIRST MAJOR fundraiser dubbed "Shake the World" sponsored by global brands Swatch and HSBC for the Philippine advocacy group on cancer, I Can Serve, was recently held at the Peoples' Palace in Greenbelt 3.

It was an invitation to "step out, stand up, and shake the world." And one way to live up to the challenge was to make a difference in the lives of women in the Philippines, which has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia.

Cancer survivor and broadcast journalist Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, founding president of I Can Serve, begged everyone to include breast cancer in their list of advocacies. The foundation seeks to empower women with information and hope.

"Help us save our sisters and the children of our friends who will need their mothers when they grow up," said Kara. "And even when

SHAKIN'/ C2

BACOLOD: A CITY OF SMILES, A CITY OF DIPS!

How often has it been said that Filipinos seem to hold such a passionate love affair with food? It's undoubtedly the highlight of any fiesta occasion, for who could imagine celebrating a birthday or a graduation or even a baptism without at least a bilao of pansit, a bowl of afritada and a plate of barbecue to get the tastebuds rolling in celebration. Truly, Filipinos love having an assortment of tastes on the table. And this is why they are such natural foodies.

Imagine for instance what a humdrum affair an Ilonggo Dinagyang would be without a steaming cauldron of the region's trademark La Paz Batchoy. Or in bustling Davao, it's hard not to salivate as one recalls the legendary grilled tuna eaten with gusto during the annual Kadayawan. And homegrown Cebuanos pride themselves on what they believe is the tastiest lechon in the land, which never fails to grace the typical Sinulog table.

The City of Bacolod on the other hand is making a strong case for itself as the Philippine "City of Smiles" as it hosts what is one of the most creative, colorful events on the Filipino fiesta calendar – the annual MassKara. This creative celebration of smiling masks and brightly costumed dancers celebrates the eternally-optimistic Negrense spirit, combining vivid colors with boisterous music and energetic motion.

In the same way, Lady's Choice, the leading brand of mayonnaise for decades now, stands by a rich heritage of creativity in enhancing the sensory taste experience of food as Filipinos know it. Its mayonnaise, for instance, is a well-known taste enhancer, especially for traditional favorites like fish fillet or French fries. And nowadays, you can use mayonnaise for new ideas.

While Bacoleños pride themselves on their sensational Chicken Bacolod that goes fabulously with a simple side of vinegar or soy sauce, Lady's Choice believes that its Mayonnaise is a creative new dipping partner to even better enhance this classic fiesta favorite. You may be used to savoring your succulent pa-a of chicken with a simple mix of soy sauce, chili, and calamansi, but what about coming up with a creative new way to dip to your heart's delight? Imagine a bowl of creamy rich Lady's Choice mayonnaise with a dash of sinamak vinegar, a clove of garlic, some ginger, chili pepper, and soy sauce. Heaven for the senses in a single bite!

It's a creative new twist to fill every bite with rich creamy goodness the Lady's Choice way. Just like Sharon Cuneta, the newest foodie to join the Lady's Choice dip creation craze, you too can make your own Megadelicious Dips with a jar of Lady's Choice Mayonnaise and a pinch of creativity!

In cooperation with the Department of Tourism's "Biyahe Na!" program, Lady's Choice has set its heart on bringing the unique gastronomic experience of Bacolod to the rest of the Philippines. Not just the riotous colors and masks of the famous MassKara, but the uniquely rich tastes and flavors of Chicken Bacolod served up with a unique Lady's Choice Dip Creation.

With that in mind, Bacoleño foodies who love the richness of Lady's Choice Mayonnaise on their food trips can all come together proclaiming the creativity and richness of Lady's Choice. that's And the kind of Megadelicious Dip experience sure add a few more happy foodies to the "City of Smiles".

Lady's Choice
Sandwiches
Delightful Food Trip
Masskara Festival (Bacolod, Negros Occidental)
Fried chicken continues to delight Filipinos from all walks of life. Try a new twist to this dish with Sinamak Mayo Dip only from Lady's Choice.
A lively concoction made from Lady's Choice Mayonnaise with vinegar, garlic, ginger, pepper, atsuete oil, siling labuyo and onions.
For Megadelicious Dips
Unilever

OH HAPPY DAY for I Can Serve member Carla Paras-Sison who is surrounded by Swatch hunk models.

BREAST-CANCER survivors and supportive family members and friends with Dr. Teyet Pascual (third from right), Alikpala and Lulu Tinio

ORIGINAL Pink

SWATCH declares it's time to step out, stand up and shake the world.

PINK is the official color for breast-cancer awareness. Model is wearing Original Pink Swatch.

Shakin' and stirrin' against the Big C

From page C1

they're grown. For whoever outgrows their mom?"

Kara introduced the guests to the cancer survivors who are part of the I Can Serve Foundation. She called them "ambassadors of hope."

Friends for the last 20 years, exclusive Swatch licensee Virgie Ramos and Kara Alikpala now stand side by side in battling the Big C. Together with HSBC CEO Warner Manning they form a trinity determined to create major awareness for breast cancer.

"I cannot think of a better partner," said Kara of Virgie Ramos. "She is brimming with life just like my cancer survivor friends who are forever giddy and grateful for their second lease on life."

"She has never lost that sense of wonderment in all her endeavors," said Kara. "I had to get cancer to find out what she already knew—that every moment is priceless and we have to view each experience as though it were the first time it were happening. And as if it were the last."

Kara also recalled that she met Warner Manning early this year. "He's another man in a hurry to make a difference. He never stops running to save whatever needs saving. He's never out of air because each race or marathon builds up his stamina and capacity to give. And he understood the urgency of our advocacy. HSBC recognized that the Filipino women are the country's most important resource."

Shaken and stirred, guests placed their orders for the newest Swatch watches. Three watches from the Fall Winter 2005 collection, Original Pink, Taste of Pink and Family Portrait, are styled in different renditions of pink, the breast-cancer campaign color.

Two styles, the unisex Dotty Dots and the Side Charm, a watch the wearer can accessorize just like a charm bracelet, are exclusive to HSBC credit cardholders with a 20-percent discount until Dec. 31.

A percentage of the sales of the limited-edition Swatch Fall-Winter 2005 collection will go to the I Can Serve Foundation to support its projects.

The celebration of life and friendship was hosted by Tessa Prieto-Valdes and directed by Robbie Carmona. Also there to lend support for the advocacy were Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Rachel Alejandro, Geneva Cruz, Agot Isidro, Joyce Oreña, Rissa Samson and Matteo Guidicelli.

Partners HSBC and Swatch also encourage direct donations to I Can Serve (www.icanserve.net, 632-6873942) or through the HSBC credit card.

MAGSANOC-ALIKPALA, Prieto-Valdes and Chico Angeles with Peoples' Palace crew.

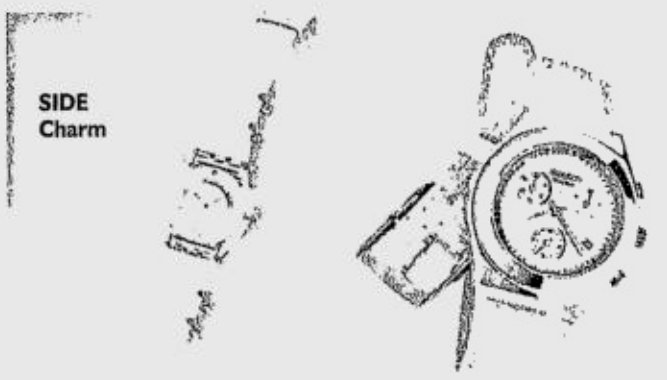
HSBC CEO Warner Manning pledges his support to the I Can Serve Foundation.

MEN SUPPORT breast-cancer awareness, too. HSBC's Martin Cook, Print Town's Dennis Valdes and Gift Gate's Miguel Ramos

THE SIDE Charm Swatch is exclusively for HSBC credit-card holders.

GUIDICELLI and Ala Paredes

DOTTY Dots



SIDE Charm

FAMILY Portrait

TASTE of Pink

MAYETTE Siasoco and Cathy Sta. Maria of Globe Telecom and Laine Santana of HSBC

SWATCH'S James Locsin with HSBC Marketing's Marian Balagot and Mina Ortigas

A real-life 'Fatal Attraction'

DEAR EMILY,

I have a brother who is considered the black sheep of the family. He enrolled in college but never sat down in the classroom or read books. He went to a diploma mill, so we had a good idea how he passed his subjects.

He is tall and good-looking, though. He got a girl pregnant and married early. He now works in a fast-food chain.

His problem started when a partner of the owner saw him. She is separated from her husband and has four kids. My brother is naturally friendly and he became friends with this woman.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

She started driving him home, bringing toys and food to the house of his in-laws where he lived with his wife and kids that they considered her god-sent!

Before long, the woman would suddenly appear—in my mother's house, in our relative's house, in his in-law's house, at watering holes where my brother went with his friends—and just about every place where my brother was.

We didn't have to take a course in rocket science to conclude that my brother was a kept man. At first, he denied the relationship, of course, but admitted it later.

My brother bolted out of this woman's hold a month ago. He thought it'd be easy but she started hounding him night and day. She had him fired from his job.

We thought that was the end of her. But now, she follows him everywhere and calls at all hours of the day every cell phone, every land line of every relative, every friend, and, it seems, every human being my brother knows.

His wife, who has been showered with gifts by this woman, does not believe that any hanky-panky occurred. She has been playing deaf, dumb and blind.

Recently, the woman turned violent, kicking, scratching and punching him on the face. But after she hit him one too many, he hit back. She immediately reported him to the police.

She vowed that their relationship would be "to the death." My brother is so afraid for his life and so are we. She is threatening and harassing not just my brother but everyone in our family.

Should we tell the woman's children and ex-husband about how she's destroying my brother's life? My brother is 34 and she is 52. I think the woman has snapped and needs help. What can we do?

JOY

Wow, what a wonderful plot for a movie. Let's make a suspense film and call it "Fatal Attraction!" It's guaranteed to be a blast!

Levity aside, the "Fatal Attraction" scenario is very real for many, many people. This woman is, given all the signs you mentioned, sick... and needs help.

Your brother is clearly up to his neck in this cesspool he has gotten himself into. Which only shows that truth is frighteningly stranger than fiction. Their relationship must have registered very differently with her to have her believe they'll be together forever.

Try talking to her yourself. Bring along some of your other siblings who care for your brother. If this doesn't work you may want to get the help of her immediate family.

Her children, for instance, should know. She is going berserk, if they don't already know it.

Her bone-chilling threat "to the death" shouldn't be taken lightly. All her actions now may prove to be unstoppable in the blink of an eye. It's better to be safe than sorry.

According to a lawyer, your brother should have protected himself by also filing a complaint with the police. He had his share of scratches and bruises, didn't he?

The wrath of this woman scorned could be worse than a hurricane! Take this seriously.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer: Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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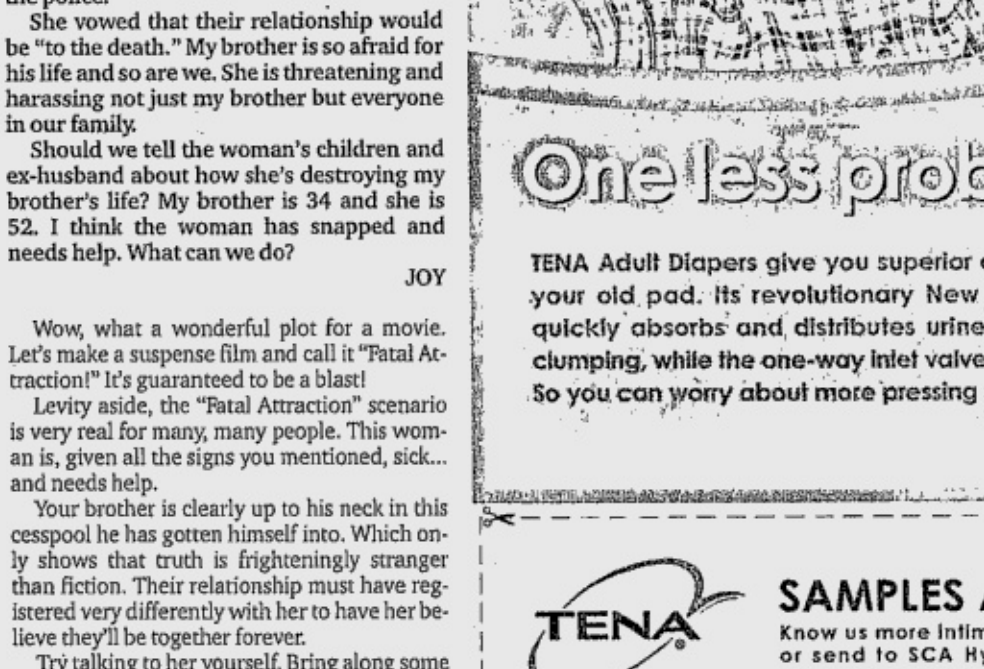

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Blessed Leon, former parish priest in Bohol and Romblon

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

BLESSED LEON INCHAUSTI Y MONteguia, one of the "Eight Martyrs of Motril" killed during the Spanish Civil War in 1936, was a parish priest of Bohol and Romblon in the late 1800s. The eight priests, all Augustinian Recollects, were beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1999 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Boholanos and people from Banton, Romblon, can now pray to him for his intercession. I have been praying to him since I came to know about him from Martina Juarez Festin, mother of Fr. Laurence Festin of San Carlos Seminary and Fr. Raymond Festin, SVD, who is now studying in Louvin, Belgium.

56 years as religious

Blessed Leon was born in 1859 in Ajanguiz (Bizkaia) España to Benito Inchausti and Juana Monteguia and died in Motril (Granada) in 1936 after 56 years of religious life. He studied at the College of Philosophy and Sciences at Monteagudo in Navarra. His formation in theology took place in Millan de la Cogolla in Rioja. He entered the Convent in Marcela, Navarra.

In 1884, he arrived in Leyte from Barcelona, sailing on the ship "Isla de Cebu" for a month. At the age of 25, Padre Inchausti was ordained in Cebu in 1884 after learning Cebuano. He was an assistant parish priest in Barrio Loay 1885-1887. He was parish priest of Dimiao, Bohol, 1887-1890.

He first set foot in Banton, Romblon, when he visited the parish priest, Padre Sanvallo Majuelo. After a short vacation in Banton, he returned to Sierra Bullones in Bohol. He had a short stint in the parish of Sierra Bullones before becoming parish priest again in Dimiao.

Then he was transferred to Romblon where he was parish priest at Azagra, San Fernando, Sibuyan Island. He was parish priest in Banton, Romblon, 1894-1897.

This was his last parish in the Philippines before he was transferred to Brazil just before the Spanish-American War. Padre Inchausti was the last Augustinian Recollect parish priest in Banton, Romblon. After 18 years as parish priest in Brazil, he went home to Spain to serve in Motril (Granada).

During the Spanish Civil War in 1936, celebrating Mass was forbidden in churches and monasteries by the Republican faction because of their hatred of the Catholic Church. But Padre Inchausti and some other priests were not afraid. The Republican soldiers burnt the monasteries because of the disobedience of the priests and 7,000 died.

Padre Inchausti and seven other priests were killed by firing squad on a street in Motril.

After many years of studying the lives of the priests massacred in Motril, researchers concluded they died as martyrs defending their faith and for Jesus Christ. They are now called the "Eight Martyrs of Motril."

Those who want prayer cards can write to me at PO Box 2050. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Those who want to send testimonies of miracles through the intercession of Blessed Leon can e-mail BlessedLeon@yahoo.com.

BLESSED Leon Inchausti of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

New priests

Bishop Nestor Cariño of Legazpi ordained six deacons Sept. 24 at the Cathedral of St. Gregory the Great. They were Fr. Ruben Berango III, Fr. Marlon Bron, Fr. Al Ray Antoni Compuesto, Fr. Ricardo Divinagracia, Fr. Dennis Postrado and Fr. Niño Jose Tuyo.

In Cebu, the St. Benedict's Monastery in Barrio Corte, Carmen, is accepting candidates for oblates. Candidates must be practicing Catholics, men and women, have sufficient knowledge of English and are interested in Benedictine spirituality. Visit, write or text 0918-3260573.

Triduum of Masses

Our Lady of Biglang Awa Foundation will hold a Triduum of Masses at 5 p.m., Nov. 4; and 4 p.m., Nov. 5 and 6, at the St. Paul Seminary Chapel, St. Paul Road, Makati.

The foundation supports seminarians in the Diocese of Boac, holds catechetical instructions, prepares public school students for First Communion, and helps in the repair of churches and chapels in Marinduque.

Marian catechesis

To help foster Marian devotion and for more people to gain better knowledge and understanding of the mystery of Holy Mary, Defending Family Values Foundation published "Marian Catechism: Questions & Answers on the Person, Life and Role of Holy Mary" in the history of salvation.

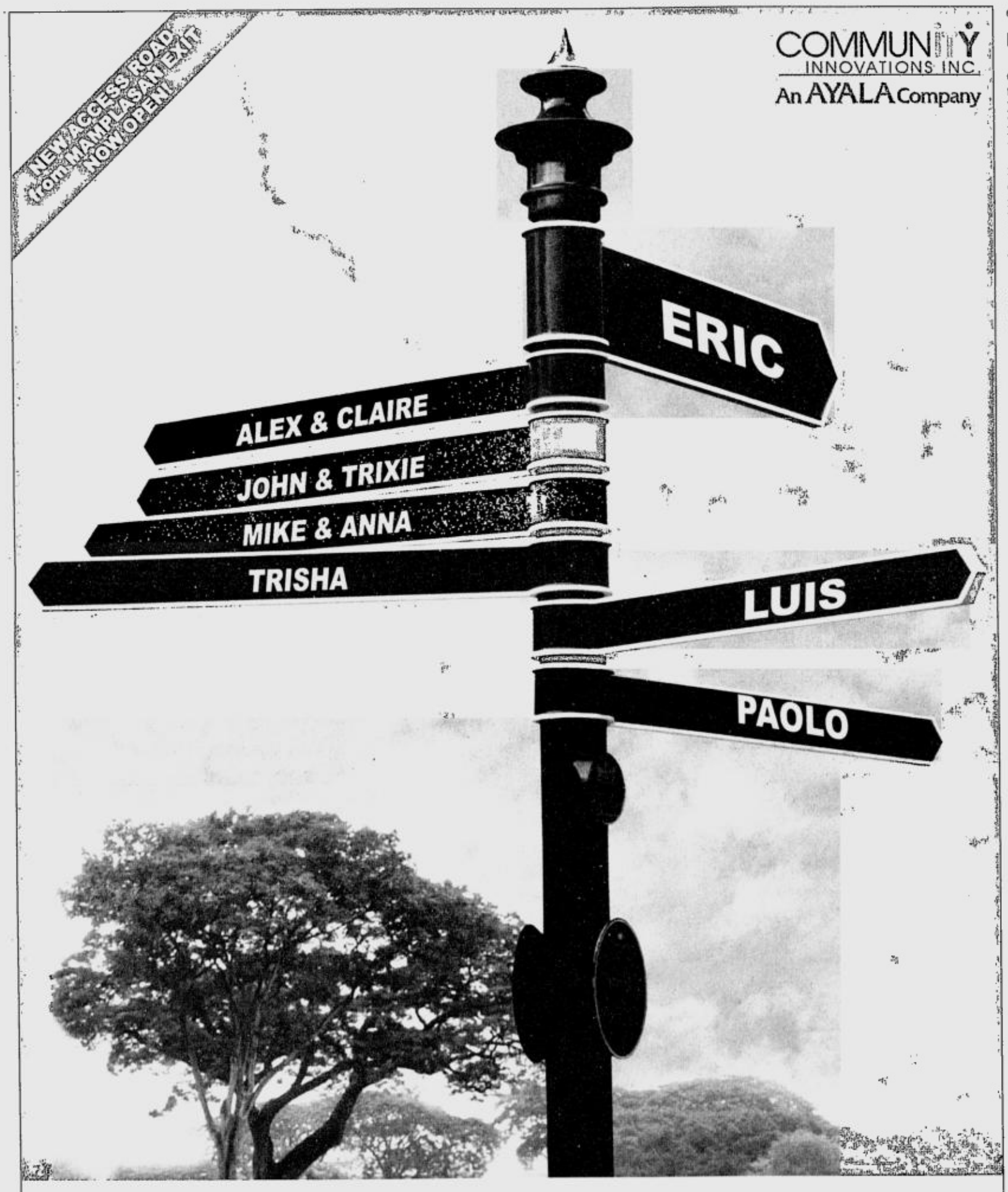
Well-researched with almost 500 questions and answers, the book covers mainly Holy Mary's life as told in the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition, Mary's privileges, and other titles and feasts, an elaboration on the Holy Rosary, Mary's favorite prayer. It also features other Marian devotions and the role of Our Lady in spiritual life. It discusses how we can manifest our love for her.

The last chapter deals with St. Joseph, expounding on the role of this just and holy man, chosen by God to protect Jesus and Mary.

For further information, please call Defending Family Values Foundation Inc. at 8932964 or 8139020.

Congregacion's 26th

The Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus will turn 26 on Oct. 30. A solemn High Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. at the Sto. Niño chapel at the Violago Compound in Quezon City. New members are Mario Buela and Terry Layacan.



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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

DE TORRES-HIZON

Dustin de Torres and **Von Hizon** will tie the knot on Nov. 12, at the Ayala Greenfield Estates Golf and Leisure Club, Calamba, Laguna. The bride will wear an off-white **Mike de la Rosa** gown made of Thai silk, accentuated with gem appliques and rhinestones.

TAN-ARCE

Patrick San Buenaventura Tan, son of **Pio Tan** and **Aida San Buenaventura**, will wed **Angela Celis D. Arce**, daughter of **Mauel** and **Laura Arce**, on Dec. 4, at Mary the Queen Parish.

DUBLADO-PITOGO

Ramil Layo Dublado, son of **Narciso Jr.** (deceased) and **Leonarda Dublado**, recently wed **Ellen Mendoza Pitogo**, daughter of **Norberto** and **Bonifacia Pitogo**, at the Parish of Mary the Immaculate Conception, Wisdom St., Teresa Village, Project 6, QC. Reception was held at Jade Valley Restaurant.

KASILAG-DE LA FUENTE

Aaron Luke Kasilag, son of **Florante** (deceased) and **Rosalia Kasilag**, exchanged vows recently with **Ma. Sophia Paz de la Fuente**, daughter of **Sergio de la Fuente** and **Ma. Paz Valera de la Fuente**, at St. James the Great Parish in Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa. Fr. **Medardo Durmiendo**, OSA officiated at the wedding. Don Paolo Studio took the photos.

NUÑEZ-VILLAS

Adrian P. Nuñez, son of **Bienvenido** (deceased) and **Flora Nuñez**, will tie the knot with **Nonnah Gracia S. Villas**, daughter of **Fernando** and **Rustica Villas**, on Oct. 25, at Sta. Ana Shrine Parish Church, Davao City. **Bong Agustin** designed the bride's gown. The bodice has a crystal-cut glass beadwork pattern. Bell long sleeves will be taken off at the reception to reveal a tube top. A 10-meter cathedral train is accentuated with spangle beads and crystals. An illusion tulle fastened with a floral crystal tiara completes the ensemble. Dinner reception will follow at the CAP New Auditorium, Davao City.

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WITH Nestor Torre

WITH Johnny Villena

WITH Vic Agustin

WITH Jess Abrera

'Primus inter mares' turns 80

Eugenia Duran Apostol has fought battles great and small, but she still has time for ballroom dancing

WITH Mike Suarez

Text by Sylvia L. Mayuga
Photos by Jess Yuson and Mandy Navasero

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN initiate in the continuing struggle for Filipino press freedom to delight in the high old time had by all at the Philippine Daily Inquirer's surprise party to celebrate its retired founder and publisher Eugenia Duran Apostol's 80th birthday last Oct. 9.

The actual birth date of "Tita Eggie" (her nickname to one and all in the superlative warmth of media subculture) is really Sept. 29—Feast of St. Michael, the Archangel of Light, no less—in the year 1925, smack in the middle of the jazz era.

Such a blend of heaven-and-earthiness hints at how and why this petite, fair and bedimpled bundle of femininity born in Sorsogon would proceed to pack a wallop in the rough and tumble world of Philippine journalism—peaking in her late 50's, leapfrogging through her 60's and 70's, and still going strong now in her 80's.

Tita E—one of her media chicks' affectionate further diminution of a media mother hen's nickname—is living proof that no piety, wit or beauty is protection enough from unrelenting history.

Lovely young Eggie in first womanly bloom became one of World War II's wounded when bazooka shrapnel lodged in her womb.

I discovered this telling blow close-up as her editorial assistant on my first newspaper job in the original Manila Chronicle's weekend supplement, "Woman and Home," which she edited in the mid-'60s. There began an ongoing dialogue between two Libras born 18 years apart in the frontier world of the Philippine media.

Ruled by the permanent whip of deadlines, Tita E and all the rest of us media femmes have been both harassed and privileged witnesses to our country's unfolding history—and a unique angle on both life and work that emerged for us in the late '60s. Our confinement then to the "feminine" beats of culture, education, social work, society events, with art and history at the farthest limits had begun to give way to what has today become a new borderless culture, where no news beat is closed and no media position too lofty for a woman.

A gossipy dialogue of laughing grace notes between two gregarious natives of the solar sign ruling justice, beauty and harmony, with rich slices of Philippine history between them, continues to be enriched to this day—most of all by the countless others we have both worked, fought, allied with and/or learned from in this profession. Many are called but few are chosen. Once confined to a patriarchal media world with all of us, succeeding decades would see Tita E emerge as *primus inter mares* (Pidgin Latin for our feminist times, meaning "first among equal women") under a changing standard.

Soon this muse (a.k.a. "crush *ng bayan*") to the men and mentor/role model to a new generation of media dudes and dudettes would take our breath away as she turned into an icon for press freedom in the last Marcos years and of people empowerment through journalism beyond them.

Literature's loss

How did she do it and how does she continue doing it? Thereby hangs the tale.

One of Tita E's longest-standing friends and colleagues, Gloria Garchitorena-Goloy, also her classmate at the UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, tossed us this nugget in her testimonial to the birthday girl that evening: "Her potential—in literature, yet—surfaced and was recognized when her short story, 'Harvest,' was singled out by the literary editors of the Varsitarian, the UST school paper (Sionil José was then assistant literary editor), as one of six outstanding pieces from a bumper crop of 45 short stories by 28 writers. Eggie led the select roster of student fictionists, among them Teodoro C. Benigno and A. Oliver Flores.

"'Harvest' was the first and the only short story by Eggie that I had read. But that first reading had made such an impact, I have not forgotten to this day its simple remarkable plot and effective craftsmanship. Its focus was on a lone character, a farmer surveying his grain-laden field, buoying prospects or a rich harvest. But expectations turn ugly when a storm, unexpected and fierce, explodes its fury, devastating the prized crop. The denouement describes the farmer's frantic rush out to his precious field, swinging his scythe in a frenzied effort to gather the drowning stalks—in the process slicing his finger, the blood spurting a crimson rivulet on the golden grains.

"Truly a great 'beginner's' story! But I think 'Harvest' is a literary masterpiece that ranks with the classic Paz Latorena's 'The Small Key' and Loreto Paras-Sulit's 'Laarni a Dream.' That Eggie did not go on to write more stories may well be Philippine literature's loss—but journalism's gain, as later events in her life show."

Tita E's literary roots belong to the same continuum as the Tagalog proverbs she made sure to help keep alive in the "Woman and Home" regular section she put me in charge of. Along the way, she also gave me the freedom to explore topics close to my heart for articles aimed at a mass audience—the beginning of a continuing exploration of the secrets of the human psyche that still engage me today.

How long Tita E's first love and subtle influence on the Filipino young have been buried by the many thunderous events in our lives and common history! And how sweetly they resurfaced on Oct. 9—as, once and for all, a newly hatched octogenarian revealed her deepest secret of success to the world.

WITH PDI chair Marixi R. Prieto and PDI President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

She's got rhythm

It's called rhythm, exquisitely timed responses to the times and their all too often cacophonic signals—proven better nowhere than when Tita E literally takes to the dance floor. Yes, Eggie Apostol, deposer of two tyrants; publisher who secretly sold her diamond engagement ring to launch the Mr. & Ms. Special Edition as a specialized cannon of pure irreverence against a scowling military dictatorship; this little lady who turned the fruits of Edsa I into a formula for today's largest, most powerful and enduring Philippine broadsheet is at heart a quintessential dancer who antedates the DI/ballroom dancing craze by nearly four decades.

No need to make a case of something a hundred color photographs and an exuberant video record of that magical evening at the INQUIRER offices prove much better. But this I'll say, on the dance floor, one sees inner essence much better than the words that are journalists/writers' weapons of choice. Another word then on Tita E's dancing style, nay life philosophy, is in order—she dances, with everyone, bar none, in perfect time, a blithe spirit of both democracy and the freedom of expression that must go with it. But she goes further, prodding the shy to self-confidence, the ponderous to let their hair down a tad, the ambitious to keep in step with all the others they'd rather leave behind, and the gifted to unfold their gifts as far as the rainbow's end.

If that sounds like an editorial policy, too, it is. And it works, as the records show. This privileged chick hatched by Philippine journalism's mother hen for all time must however claim the right to add one last thing. She sings, too, as the moment calls for it, and without hesitation. Trying to say, "Goodnight, I'm sleepy now," at a surprise party that surprised her most of all, Tita E was persuaded to stay a little longer and crown an evening out of time.

In farewell, she sang us an old Spanish song from her girlhood, a lilting "Amapola"—in English, the poppy from which both pain-killing opium and the designer ecstasy drugs, cocaine and heroin, are extracted. The poppy comes in hues of yellow, orange, pink and white, but is never loveliest than in deep red—accidentally, or perhaps not too accidentally, Tita E's color for the evening.

No wonder everyone, hesitant dancers included, instinctively fell into a hypnotized circle around her, swaying together as she sang—comradely love brewed to vintage wine in a Filipino media community forged in fire and held together by continuing trial, in rhythm once again with Eugenia Duran-Apostol. Would that her music never ends.

PETE Lacaba, Vergel Santos, Satur Ocampo, Chit Suter and Marra Lanot

SHEILA Coronel and Eggie

WELL-WISHERS HONI Ilusorio, Nelly Sindayen, Belinda Cunanan and Amando Doronila

AUTHOR with Gilda Cordero-Fernando

EGGIE with Doris Trinidad and Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc

WITH Tina Monzon-Palma

AMANDA Navasero and Marcia Rodriguez

DORIS Trinidad, Carolina Malay, Gloria Goloy and daughter Angge

CONRADO de Quiros

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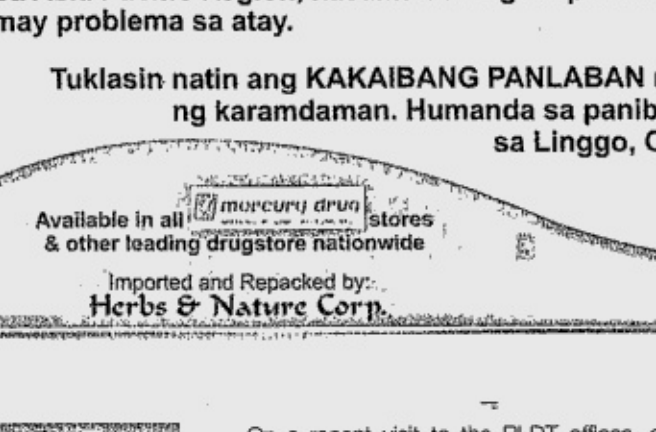

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Manny meets Manny
The Pacman visits MVP

On a recent visit to the PLDT offices, a rare occurrence happened. When "The People's Champion" Manny Pacquiao paid a courtesy call to SMART and PLDT Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, it wasn't just a meeting between men who shared the same first name. As the champion in the boxing ring met the champion in the business arena, the two Mannys seemed to genuinely enjoy being in the presence of one another.

After a thunderous knockout of Hector Velazquez at the Staples Center in Los Angeles last September 10, Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao put the world on notice. Now in the middle of preparations for a January rematch with Erik "El Terible" Morales, Pacquiao is preparing to carry the Philippine colors into the ring once again. Manny Pangilinan for his part is credited as one of the most respected leaders in Philippine business today. MVP's guidance pushed SMART to have the most number of subscribers in the country, despite being a heavy underdog in the beginning. He is also credited as the driving force behind making PLDT a relevant Filipino business company once more and refocusing it for the 21st century.

Pacquiao's exploits in the ring are universally cheered by Filipinos of all ages. With every blow he lands, Filipinos far and wide unanimously support him. When Manny triumphs, he makes us even prouder that we are Filipinos. Just by the way he carries himself in victories and defeats, Manny already serves as an inspiration for Filipinos of all ages. The man everybody calls "MVP" has long been acknowledged as an avid sports fan. He can be seen cheering for the PBA's Talk 'N Text Phone Pals throughout the year. He is also often spotted applauding for his beloved Ateneo Blue Eagles during the UAAP basketball season. It was through Pangilinan's efforts that the first ever MVP Cup: Asia vs. Europe badminton tournament was successfully held earlier this year.

(L-R) Members of Team Pacquiao: Jake Joson and Eric Pineda; Manny's wife Jinkee Pacquiao; Manny Pacquiao; Manny V. Pangilinan, SMART and PLDT Chairman; Napoleon Nazareno, SMART President; Boy Martirez, SMART PCMSD Head; Guido Zaballero, Talk 'N Text Department Head

SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers can be textmates with Manny! Key in PACMAN and send to 290 to get updates from the people's champion himself. Manny actively texts to his fans, telling them about life on his farm as he trains his fighting cocks, his sparring sessions, and his various activities. By keying in PACMAN LOGO and sending it to 622, you can get Pacman and other action sports logos weekly.

On the same courtesy call paid to SMART and PLDT Chairman Manny V. Pangilinan, Manny Pacquiao expressed his gratitude for SMART and Talk 'N Text's unwavering faith in him. He gamely posed for pictures with countless fans who've been praying for him throughout the years. In this encounter between two champions, good will and lots of laughs were the order of the day. "The Pacman" seemed to be relieved to just be himself, even as he hobnobbed with one of the Philippines' elite businessmen. "MVP" for his part enjoyed Pacquiao's stories on his preparation and his training regimen. A simple meeting, a show of support, as two winners pay respect to one another.

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TALK 'N TEXT

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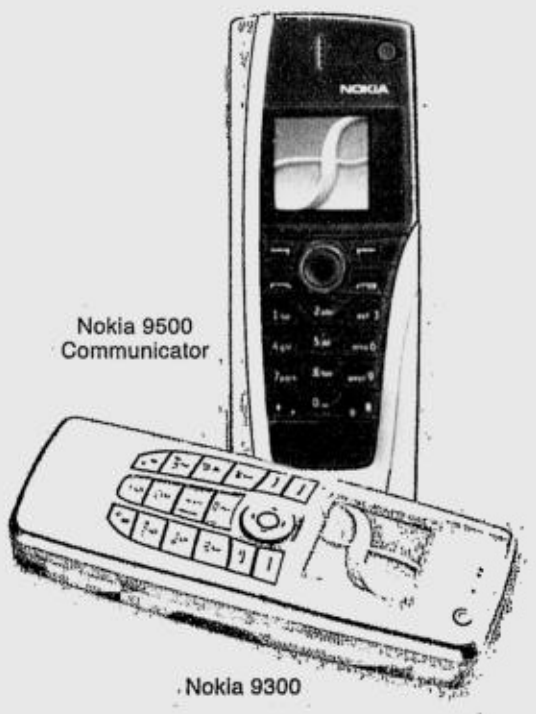

Nokia 9500 Communicator

Nokia 9300

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SMART Simply Amazing!

"UNION of Worlds" (Bohemian) by Katherine Rica Bautista, Pamela Aimee Bondad, Natalia Lobregat and Mark Bryan See

What's your 'design personality?'

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

IF AN ARTIST'S WORK IS A reflection of himself, then perhaps one of the hardest feats for him to pull off is to create something that's completely opposite his nature.

Not a few of this year's graduating students of the Philippine School of Interior Design found themselves in this situation as they came up with booths inspired by a particular "design personality."

Billed as "PSID Gets Personal," the month-long exhibit (the 26th since 1979) at Greenbelt 1 in Makati features 22 booths designed and executed by the school's 100-member graduating class. Admission is free.

Unlike in previous editions, when students drew inspiration from real people to come up with their respective booths, this year's would-be interior designers were guided instead by

WHAT'S/ E4

SM SUPERMALLS
20-car raffle on final stretch!

A total of 20 brand-new Mitsubishi Outlander will be given away as grand prizes in SM Supermalls' nationwide raffle event on-going until November 15. In addition to the grand prizes, 20 JVC Color TVs are being raffled off as major weekly prizes until November 12.

5 WEEKLY DRAWS
(20 UNITS JVC 29" color TV)

~~1st DRAW~~	~~OCT 15~~
~~2ND DRAW~~	~~OCT 22~~
3RD DRAW	OCT 29
4TH DRAW	NOV 5
5TH DRAW	NOV 12

simultaneous draws, all malls
one winner each mall per draw

GRAND DRAW
(20 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER)
November 19 / 4pm
Entertainment Plaza, all malls

simultaneous draw
in all 20 malls
one winner per mall

THE FIRST CHOICE FOR SHOPPING, DINING AND FUN
Through the years, SM Supermalls have evolved to become the preferred mailing destination of millions of Filipino families. This preference stems from the fact that SM Supermalls, more than any other retail group in the country today, offer shoppers more selections of merchandise, more fun and leisure options, more dining choices and more convenience.

mark your shopping calendar!

SM City San Lazaro will hold its first 3 Day Sale on Oct 28, 29 and 30 with an Extended Sale on Oct. 31! Up to 50% off on great selections!

FIRST THERE WERE 12
NOW THERE ARE 20

Last year, about this time, SM Supermalls gave away a dozen brand - new Toyota Vios to the winners of its Twelve Car Lucky Raffle Event.

This year, the car prizes have increased to 20 - the same number of SM Supermalls nationwide. This exciting new set of prizes highlights SM Supermalls' commitment to continue providing shoppers the opportunity to get more value for their hard-earned peso.

all the fun all the time
It is always a pleasure treating the whole family to a weekend at SM Supermalls. That's because a variety of leisure options are available for everyone.

COOL FUN AT THE SKATING RINK
SM Ice Skating
Experience GREAT DEAL at SM Ice Skating Rink! Enjoy unlimited ice time for only P220. This cool offer includes FREE Skating lessons for beginners, Skates and Locker Rentals. Plus get a chance to win special prizes in their Raffle Draw on December 2, 2005!

SM Bowling Centers
Tournament players in the 5th SM Bowling Cup get a chance to win in the national finals raffle.
Prizes at stake include a Brand-New Nissan Sentra, and Family Trip for 4 to Hongkong inclusive of a Disneyland tour. Plus lots of other big, big prizes!

FUN-tastic Starland ride-all-you-can tags
at SM Southmall, SM City Fairview, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Batangas, SM City Cebu and SM City Iloilo.

20

Promo Period: Aug.15 - Nov. 15, 2005

SM more reasons to shop at SUPERMALLS
Color and specs may vary from actual units

Plus! 20 JVC color TVs to be given away weekly!
Draw starts October 15, 2005

Shop at any of our
20 supermalls to join the raffle!
Every P500 purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket / Super SM Hypermarket or from any mall establishment gives you the chance to win a Mitsubishi Outlander and a JVC 73.66cm (29") Color TV.

See mechanics posters for details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1628 Series of 2005

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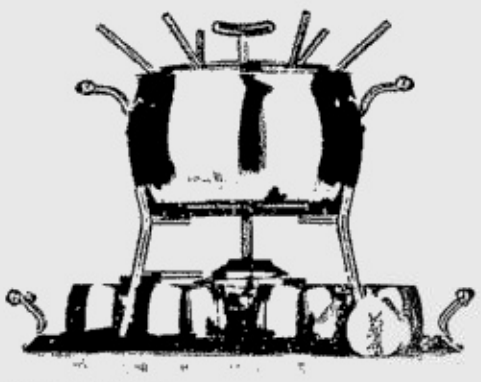
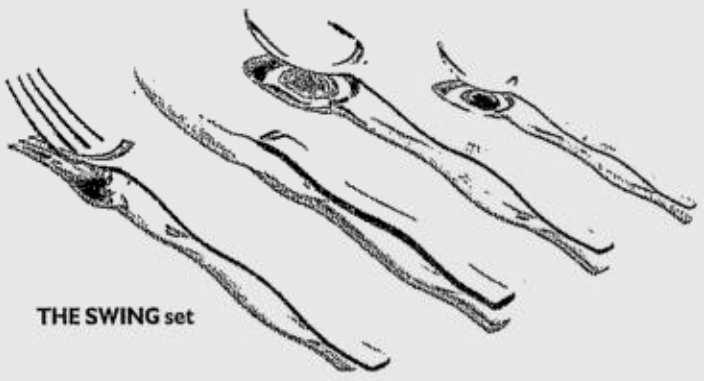
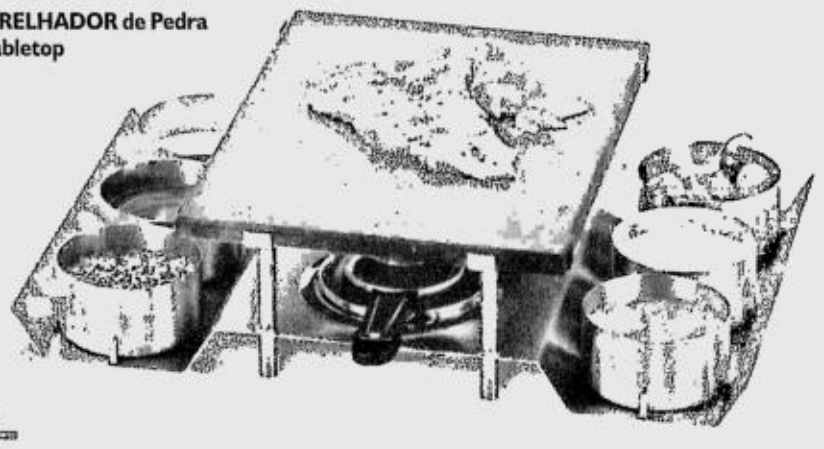
SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY MARILAO • SM CITY DASMARINAS • SM CITY BATANGAS • SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY SAN LAZARO



YUMI fondue set

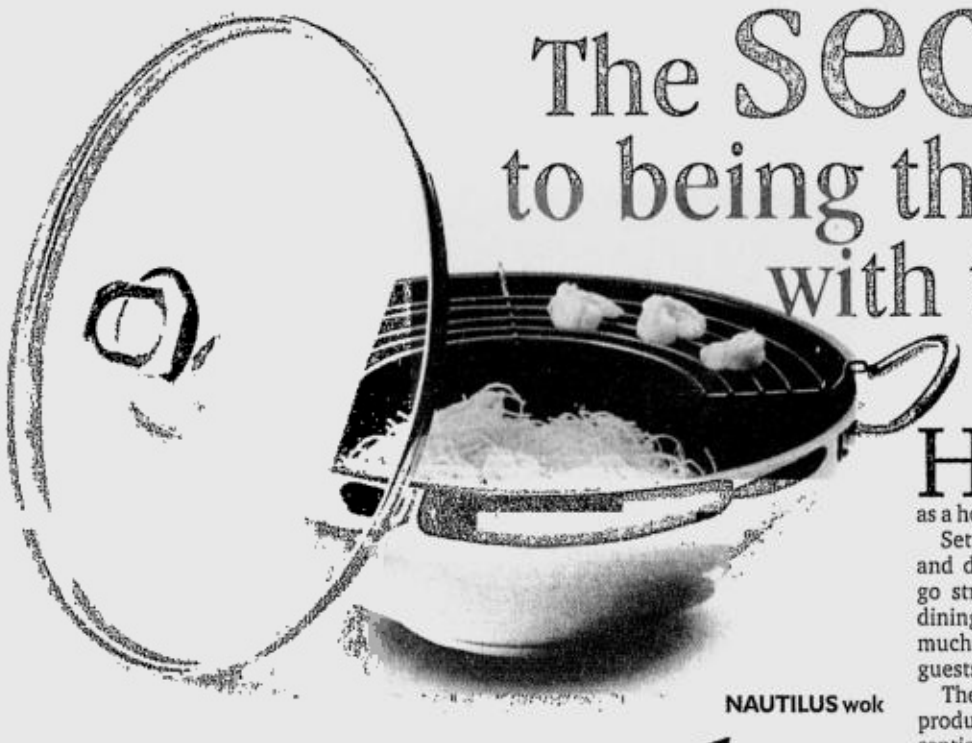


THE SWING set



GRELHADOR de Pedra tabletop

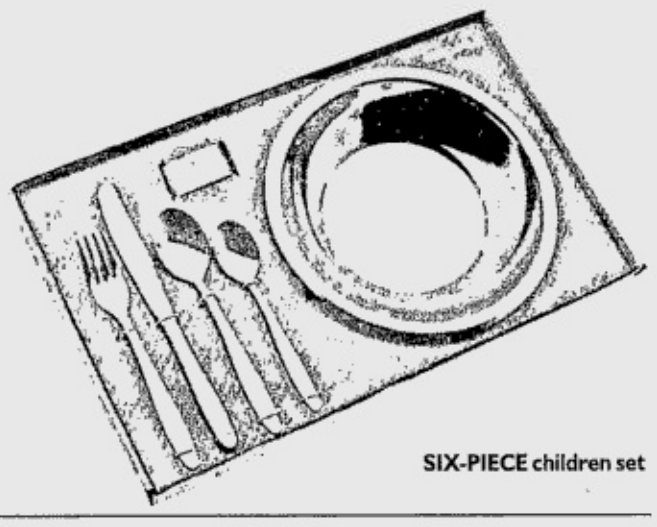
The secret to being the hostess with the mostest



NAUTILUS wok

COMPLETE set of cutlery in wooden gift box

Two Portuguese companies have been providing successful hosts the right tools



SIX-PIECE children set

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

HOME ENTERTAINING MEANS more than just serving good food. Presentation says as much about you as a host as what you feed your guests.

Setting the table with a fine set of cutlery and double-purpose cookware that can go straight from the kitchen to the dining table will make your dinner much more enjoyable to your guests.

The Portuguese have a long tradition of producing fine-quality table and cooking essentials. Two of the most trusted brand names in cutlery and cookware, Herdmar and Silampos, respectively, come from Portugal.

Century-old

Herdmar was founded by Manuel Marques in 1911 in Caldas das Taipas, municipality of Guimarães, district of Braga.

It uses high-quality stainless steel for its cutlery. Some 80 percent of its production is exported to 50 different countries, including Canada, Finland, Russia, Israel, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. In Asia, Herdmar is available only in Japan and the Philippines.

Rustan's Department Store has been the exclusive distributor of Herdmar products in the Philippines for four years now.

"Our business with Rustan's is increasing every year," said Maria José Marques, export manager and third-generation owner of Herdmar, who was recently in Manila for the opening of Portuguese Festival, ongoing at Rustan's Makati until Oct. 24.

"We started with a few cutlery lines... Now, Rustan's carries about 30 percent of our product line. We're surprised and happy to know that Filipinos enjoy our cutlery."

Herdmar cutlery goes beyond the spoon-fork-knife set. Its product line includes cake tong, ice tong, fish scaler, fondue fork, olive spoon, lobster fork, salad tong, cheese knife and napkin holder.

Unique design and superior workmanship have distinguished Herdmar from other brands. For the last six years, it opted for simple and minimalist designs, with contemporary features.

"We specialize in something easy and straightforward for modern living," said Marques. "We used to make traditional and classical models, but these are also being made by China and Turkey at very cheap prices."

To come up with new designs, Marques keeps track of the trends, the newest in textile and glassware. "We have to create cutlery that goes with fashionable tablecloths and the food as well," she said.

Marques and her young siblings took over the business four years ago when their father passed away. They had to change the design for the young generation, even using floral motifs not just for the cutlery but also for the packaging.

SILAMPOS' Bernardo Campos Araújo RODEL ROTONI

HERDMAR'S Maria José Marques RODEL ROTONI

At the same time, it adapts to the modern market, producing smaller sets for smaller families.

"We used to supply sets for families of 12. Now, modern living means a family of six or four or just a couple," said Marques.

Herdmar cutlery comes in different color-coated handles such as black, red, brass and copper. For Christmas, some designs have gold or matte finish.

Marques said they had started work on the 2006 design, which would be retro with matte finish and decorated with Arabian motifs.

Marques said Herdmar cutlery lasts forever.

Third generation

For the past 50 years, Portugal's Silampos has become synonymous with quality cookware, admired for the superior features of its pressure cooker, fondue set and table-top cookware of stainless steel.

"We are trying to continue the good work [of] our grandfather," said Bernardo Campos Araújo, assistant manager for administration and third-generation owner of Silampos, who was also in town recently for the Portuguese Festival.

Silampos, exclusively available at Rustan's Department Store, was founded in 1951. It began with aluminum cookware, quickly becoming known for its pioneering production of pressure cookers.

"Every year we come up with two or three new models to adapt to the changing lifestyle of the consumer," said Araújo.

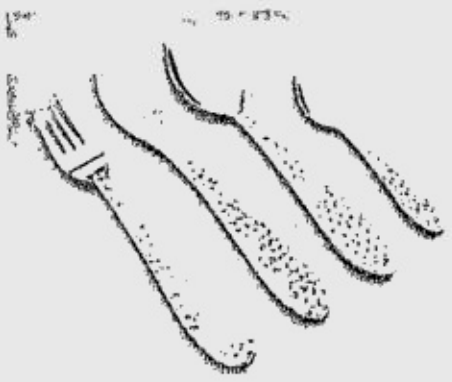
Recently it came up with the thermic bottom, Impact Disc Plus, suitable for all heat sources including induction. The company uses the most advanced technology in fitting the thermic bottoms to their products, eliminating the disadvantages of traditional soldering.

"Thermic bottom saves energy because the heat remains inside," he explained.

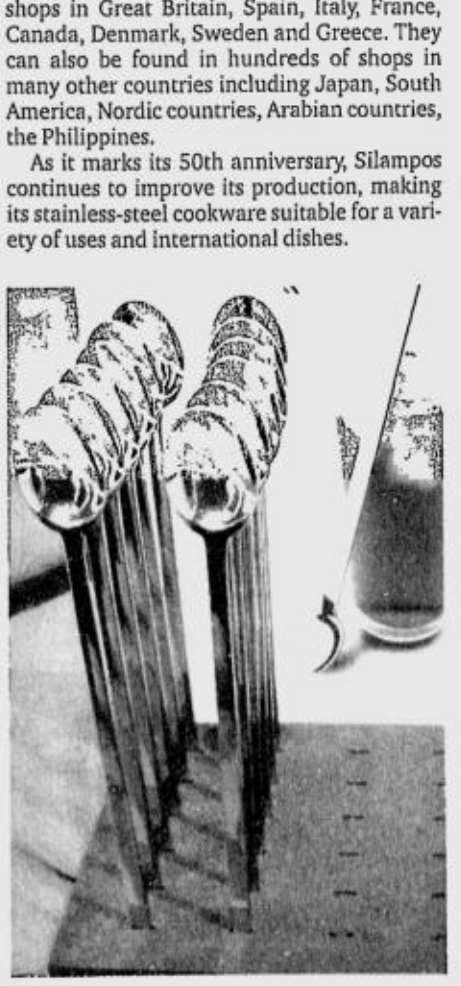
Silampos products are sold in prestigious shops in Great Britain, Spain, Italy, France, Canada, Denmark, Sweden and Greece. They can also be found in hundreds of shops in many other countries including Japan, South America, Nordic countries, Arabian countries, the Philippines.

As it marks its 50th anniversary, Silampos continues to improve its production, making its stainless-steel cookware suitable for a variety of uses and international dishes.

GRAND Hotel stainless cookware



FUNNY set of tableware



SPONGE stand set for 24 pieces RODEL ROTONI

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **FINALS**

ACROSS

1 Computer in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
4 "Fuzzy Wuzzy was — ..."
9 Disrobes
15 Christmas poem opener
19 Suffix with press or strict
20 "Peter Pan" girl
21 Stuff in chewing gum
22 Solving aid
23 December doorframe decoration
25 Devour more than
26 Kett of the comics
27 Big name in home audio
28 Pucksters' org.
29 Guttersnipe
31 Is of — (benefits)
33 Perturb
35 German car make
36 Comedy starring Joe Pesci and Danny Glover
38 — tai
41 Entangles
45 Canary cry
46 Literary girl of the Alps
48 Honshu port
49 Interpret incorrectly
53 What a driver grips
56 Trembling trees
57 German sub
58 Admirer
59 '70s sitcom
60 — -garde
61 Tightly drawn
63 Strong criticism
67 City on Long Island Sound
69 Firemen's time-waster
71 Great serves
72 Bird bill
73 Sheer linen
74 Gymnast Comaneci
75 —City (computer game)
76 Premature
77 Maker of mournful sounds
78 It may accompany a returned manuscript
84 Rising above all others
85 Old Greek square
86 Thin pancake
87 Literary surprise
89 Tycoons
91 Laddie
92 Athletic apparel
97 Cavities
99 Song of joy
100 No-no
101 Co-owner of the Pequod
107 '60s war zone
109 Antitoxins
110 Jai —
111 Cents-off certificate
112 They're found at the ends of 23, 29, 36, 53, 67, 69, 78, 92, and 101-Across
114 Unassisted
115 From Seoul
116 Japanese dog
117 Nero's lang.
118 Piercing
119 Swift
120 PC support staff
121 Twisting path

DOWN

1 Scrooge's word
2 Songlike
3 Taper off
4 Leather piercer
5 "I've — had!"
6 Quite eager
7 Actor Menjou
8 Loaf at a deli
9 Writer Turow
10 Day of the wk.
11 Sacrament
12 Frozen drink brand
13 Student of Aristotle
14 Plans to frame
15 "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" band
16 Part of SWAK
17 Prefix with 109-Across
18 Baseballer Musial
24 Head, in Paris
29 Wash. bigwig
30 Fame
32 More frequently
34 Reclines a bit
37 "— robbed!"
38 Come upon
39 Make public
40 "Big Daddy" Amin
42 — Dawn Chong
43 — out (supplement)
44 Mineo of movies
46 Fire output
47 Imbue
49 "— Mia!" (Broadway musical)
50 Soul singer Hayes
51 Bubble up
52 — a beet
54 Honky- —
55 Way in
57 Eye layer
60 Weak
61 Exhaust outlet
62 Partner
63 Thrash
64 Big spoon
65 Zodiac sign
66 Alternative to Target
68 Final notice
69 "Forgive me, Father, — have sinned"
70 Expert examiner
73 Narration
75 Supreme Court justice Antonin
76 Catch sight of
77 Wish for
78 Bash into
79 Swelled head
80 Slow trot
81 Blowup
82 Poetic eye
83 Prefix with orthodox
84 Like a cyclone
88 Virginia city
90 Adheres
92 Droop down
93 Since Hector — pup
94 Big band era singer Ray
95 Main arteries
96 Swelters
98 Be nosy
99 Copper
101 Large barrel
102 First-aid plant
103 Wan
104 Lily-white
105 Duelist's sword
106 Wash unit
108 Untrue tale
112 Fly-by-nighter?
113 Faux — (blunder)

answer on page F3

Organic movement gains ground

FILIPINO PRODUCERS OF ORGANIC foods and products are determined to become a force to reckon with in the food sector.

They held recently the two-in-one AgriLink and AgriFood Trade Fair at the World Trade Center, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex, Pasay City. It featured organic international agribusiness technologies and food processing and packaging systems, respectively.

For organic foodies, the exhibit was an eye-opener, especially to those who thought of organic farming/production as growing crops without use of chemicals. Formally, organic food is defined as that which is minimally processed "to maintain the integrity of the food without artificial ingredients, preservatives or irradiation."

The event was organized by the Organic Producers Trade Association (OPTA) headed by Mara Pardo de Tavera, who is behind the first organic market in Manila and Asia. Having studied and lived in France for several years, Pardo de Tavera was able to get the French to participate, largely through the certification body called EcoCert.

Seal of approval

A major part of the exhibit/fair was a seminar on International Organic Certification conducted by Michel Launay, EcoCert international inspector. Organic certification is the international imprimatur or seal of approval given to an organic farmer or producer who has met standards. It has become the ticket to entry in the export market.

The exhibit also revealed how France could help our agri-economic endeavors. A good way to facilitate economic, educational or cultural exchange between France and the Philippines, we were informed, is to join the Phil-France Professional Association (PFPA) whose secretariat is at 621 Lee St., Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City (fax 7243450).

Membership allows Filipino farmers access to UBI-France, the French agency for International Business Development, and to Le Club, the French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

Organic farmers

We looked at the booths of local farmers and their products. To our pleasant surprise, we found out there was real interest in medicinal plants among organic farmers and they were making the most of it.

At the Herbana Farms booth, owner Gil Carandang informed us that his four-hectare agro-ecological farm in Barangay Burol, Calamba City, Laguna, specialized in organic herbs, salad greens, free-range chickens and aquaculture. It also offered training seminars and workshops focusing on sustainable food systems.

At the Geo Farm booth, Edgard Guevara explained that in 1985, his farm in Mangayao, Bayambang, Pangasinan, was enriched with the use of livestock manure as fertilizer. Today, 20 years later, besides organic vegetables, he produced Spirulina (a concentrated natural source of nutrition containing essential amino acids as well as chlorophyll, beta-carotene and other health-enhancing elements).

Studies showed, said Guevara, that Spirulina had the potential to prevent cancer and viral diseases. He also promoted the use of lemon grass for its cleansing and anti-stress benefits. His farm is open to camps, farm experience and nature adventure programs.

Farmers' angels

Over at the Earthworm Sanctuary booth, proprietor Antonio de Castro talked about the "Angels of the Earth," the earthworms considered among the lowest of God's creatures. And yet, they are a farmer's biggest helpers. Found almost anywhere, they are easy to care for and their castings make one of the best—if not the best—fertilizers one can find anywhere. They enrich potting soil for greenhouses, house plants, for gardening or full-scale farming, making them true angels.

De Castro maintains an organic farm in Palawan. His main office is at 447 San Antonio, San Francisco del Monte, QC (call 0917-3885251 or e-mail earthwormsanctuary@yahoo.com).

Another booth that we found interesting was that of A. P. Inocencio Farms (also known as Teresa Farms), which raised free-range chickens, pioneering in the Sasso breeds. Sasso (Selection Avicole de la Sarthe et du Sud Ouest) is a French poultry breeding company specializing in colored poultry strains developed over decades of breeding experience.

It drew the interest of Inocencio Farms because it advocates the old-fashioned mode of breeding—allowing chickens to graze freely instead of cooping them in cages. The meat of these chickens is red in contrast to the American breeds which is white.

How to spot and nurture your child's gift.

Pre-school can be a whole new exciting experience for your child, opening up new worlds of discovery as he makes new friends and learns new skills. And because this is the stage where he develops these skills, Pre-school is also where you may be able to spot signs of giftedness in your child. Maybe you'll see it in a school performance, the drawings that your child brings home for you to put up on the refrigerator, or the way he explains how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. You may notice his advanced intellectual skills, or his ability to interact smoothly with others. Your child may also begin to display a talent or an inclination to one or more fields of interest, such as art or science. These displays are the first signs of a gift.[1] Once you see the gift at this stage, nurture it, in order to help your child develop that gift to its fullest.

As a parent, you play a major part in providing the proper care your child needs to develop his gift. Encourage him to develop his special abilities. You can help your child's gift grow by taking a positive attitude towards his make-believe, unusual questions, or higher level of reasoning. You can also give him room to make "creative messes," take him to interesting places to explore, and find interesting new activities for him to do. It also helps if you talk to your child, seriously listening to what he has to say and giving value to his opinions and ideas. Proper care also includes giving him the right nutrition, to support his mental and physical development.

Promil Pre-School is specially formulated to help nourish the gift in children 3 years and onwards. It contains ProGifted Formula 4 that helps enhance your pre-school child's gift at the time when it begins to show. This scientifically balanced formula includes important nutrients that help develop your child's brain during this crucial stage of growth. Iron helps improve your child's cognitive and psychomotor development, which is essential for promoting visual memory.[2,3,4] Vitamin A helps improve eyesight, which is important for learning.[5] Plus, energy-giving proteins, carbohydrates and fats help support your child's increasing energy needs during this stage, which promote motor skills development.[6]

You may be among the first to spot the beginnings of the gift in your child. But soon, that gift could grow into something to be shared with everyone. At the first sign of that gift in your pre-schooler, give him the proper care and nutrition he needs—give him Promil Pre-School. Because the opportunity to nurture the gift should never be missed.

References:

1 *www.omsd.k12.ca.us/instruct/gateearly.html Ontario-Montclair School District: Giftedness in Early Childhood: Gifted Pre-Schooler.*
2 *Sandstead, H. A., & Lofgren, P. A. (2000). Introduction. Journal of Nutrition, 130(2), 345S-346S.*
3 *NCBI: Entrez Pubmed-indexed for MEDLINE. Pediatrics.*
4 *lamar.colostate.edu. PCBs in the environment of babies and children.*
5 *Recommended Dietary Allowances 10th edition 1989 p.289.*
6 *WebHealthCare.com – Diet & Nutrition. Food at Work: Energy givers.*

Wyeth

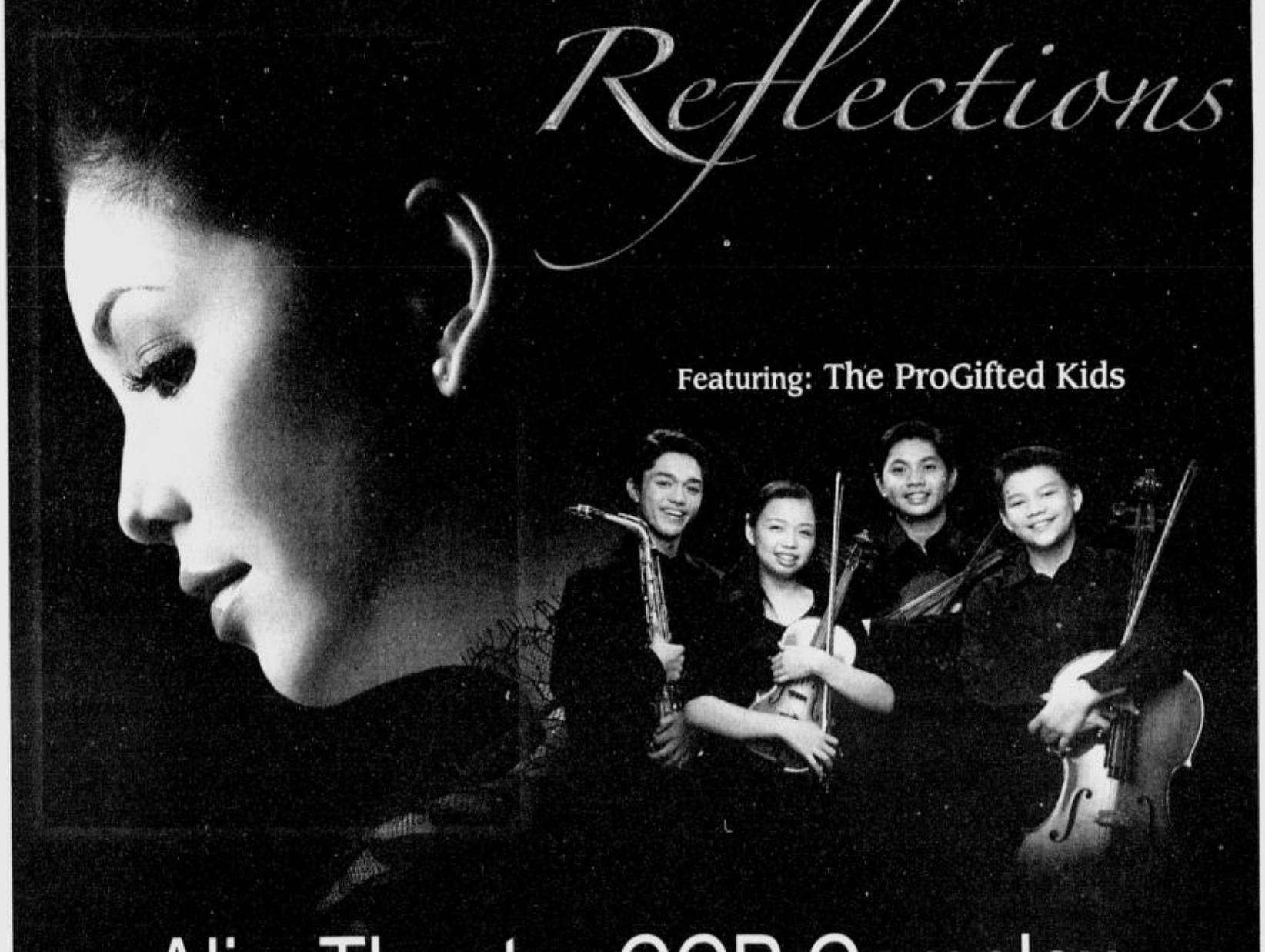
Aria Productions Inc. in cooperation with GMA

Presented by:

Wyeth ProGifted FORMULAS
Growing-up milk

Ms. Regine Velasquez

Reflections



Featuring: The ProGifted Kids

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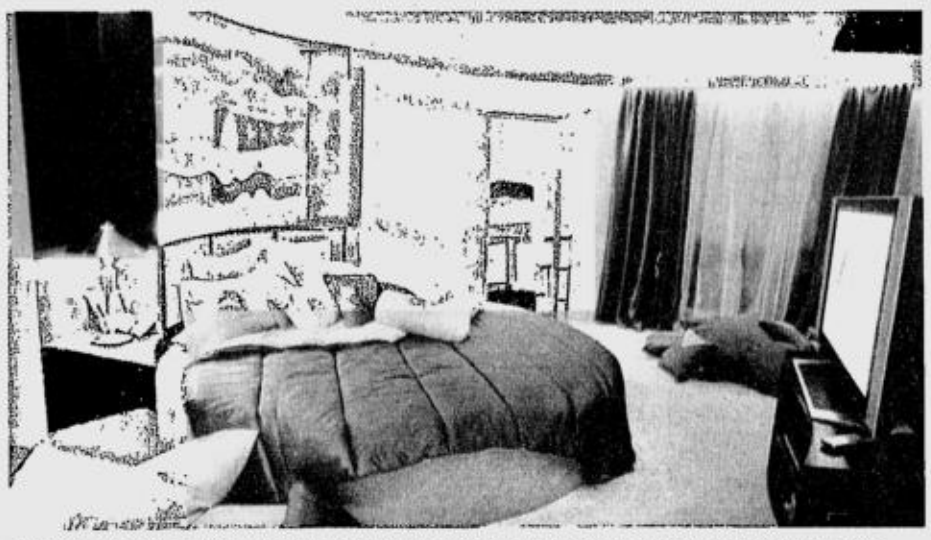
November 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, December 9 and 10
Ticket Prices: P 1,650 P 1,350 P 880 P 550
Ticketnet outlets: 911-5555 Aria Productions: 926-7868

The Wyeth ProGifted Formulas

Starting 1 year Starting 3 years



"SENSUAL Solace" (Sensual) by Joseff John Averion, Carmelina Oyales, Marie Antoinette Santos, Angelica Ubando, Kristine Margret Vela and Angelo Victorio

"URBAN Nest" (Urban) by Jose Gerard La Rosa, Jora Jean Occeno, Jenalyn dela Paz and Tuesday Tuazon

PSID's graduating students mount an exhibit guided, not by real personalities, but by abstract attributes such as pure, laid-back, sensual, bohemian, urban and wild

What's your 'design personality?'

From page E1

such attributes or design personalities as pure, laid-back, sensual, bohemian, urban and wild.

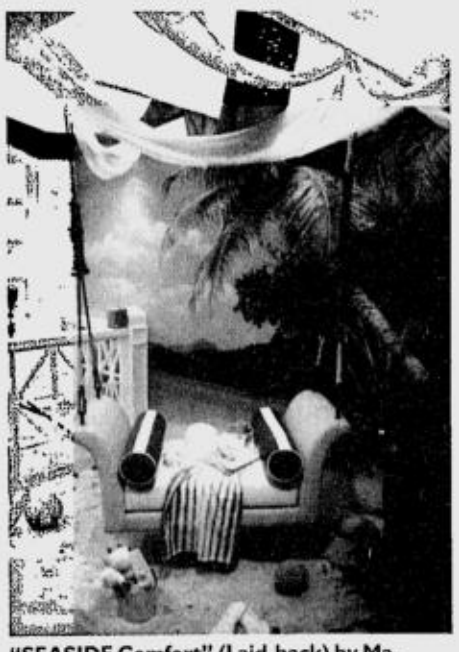
In lieu of celebrities, Jie Pambid, the school's dean and overall exhibit adviser, has chosen to focus on the exhibit's visitors by giving them an "interactive" show. Apart from the visual spectacle of seeing each booth up close, they'll get the chance to answer a series of matching-type questions before they make their way to the exhibit area.

The questionnaire is designed to reveal a person's preferences as well as his or her design personality. The 10-minute test designed by Pambid has proven to be a hit among visitors and students, who also took the test before working on their respective booths.

While not a few students possess "pure" design personalities, some were either part this or part that. Such a revelation, however, was of little help to many of them, as Pambid randomly assigned them to interpret different design personalities.

And since each booth was a product of group effort, the experience also taught them to work with other people classified under various design personalities. As a result, it honed them to rise above their individual preferences as they prepare themselves to deal with all sorts of clients in the near future.

"LA Pura Classica" (Pure) by Joan Claire Castro, Kristine Joyce Eusebio and Bianca Louise Maloles



"SEASIDE Comfort" (Laid-back) by Ma. Catrina Coronel, Ma. Clarissa Coronel and Immanuel Santillan

"POSPORO" (Wild) by Charina Amanda Buscaino, Gianrico Feliciano, Elaine Joy Martos and Kristine Mary Rose Sitoy

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Get hold of these gift certificate and exchange them for cellphones and/or accessories at St. Francis Square!

MECHANICS

1. This promo is non-purchase-related. Promo period is from October 21 to December 31, 2005 only.
2. Over 1,000 Balloons with attached St. Francis Square gift certificates will be released to the sky. Each gift certificate shall have a face value that ranges from P500 to P5,000 pesos for you to use in purchasing any of the cellphones and/or accessories.
3. The balloons shall be released between October 21 and December 31, 2005.
4. Starting from the opening of St. Francis Square, the bearer of any of the St. Francis Square gift certificates shall present the same for authentication and validation at the designated redemption booth within the mall. Upon approval, the bearer can proceed to purchase the specified merchadise from any St. Francis Square cellphone stall/shop of his/her choice. Should the cost of the merchandise be higher than the amount stated in the gift certificate, the customer shall shoulder the difference. However, if the item of choice is less than the face value of the gift certificate, the bearer is not entitled to a refund.
5. Gift certificates are valid for 60 days from the date stated thereon and is valid for one-time use only.
6. St. Francis Square reserves the right to reject gift certificate(s) if found tampered and/or reproduced or inconsistent with the built-in security features of each gift certificate.
7. All employees of the ASB Group of Companies and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo. ASB Group of Companies includes St. Francis Square, Makati Hope Christian School & Caliraya Re-Creation Resort, ASB Condotel Group and its agencies & affiliates.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

THE INCREDIBLES—Shaan Hizon with baby Vicente, Mara Lopez with Banana, Arvin Santos and Vince Hizon

Catwalk with animals

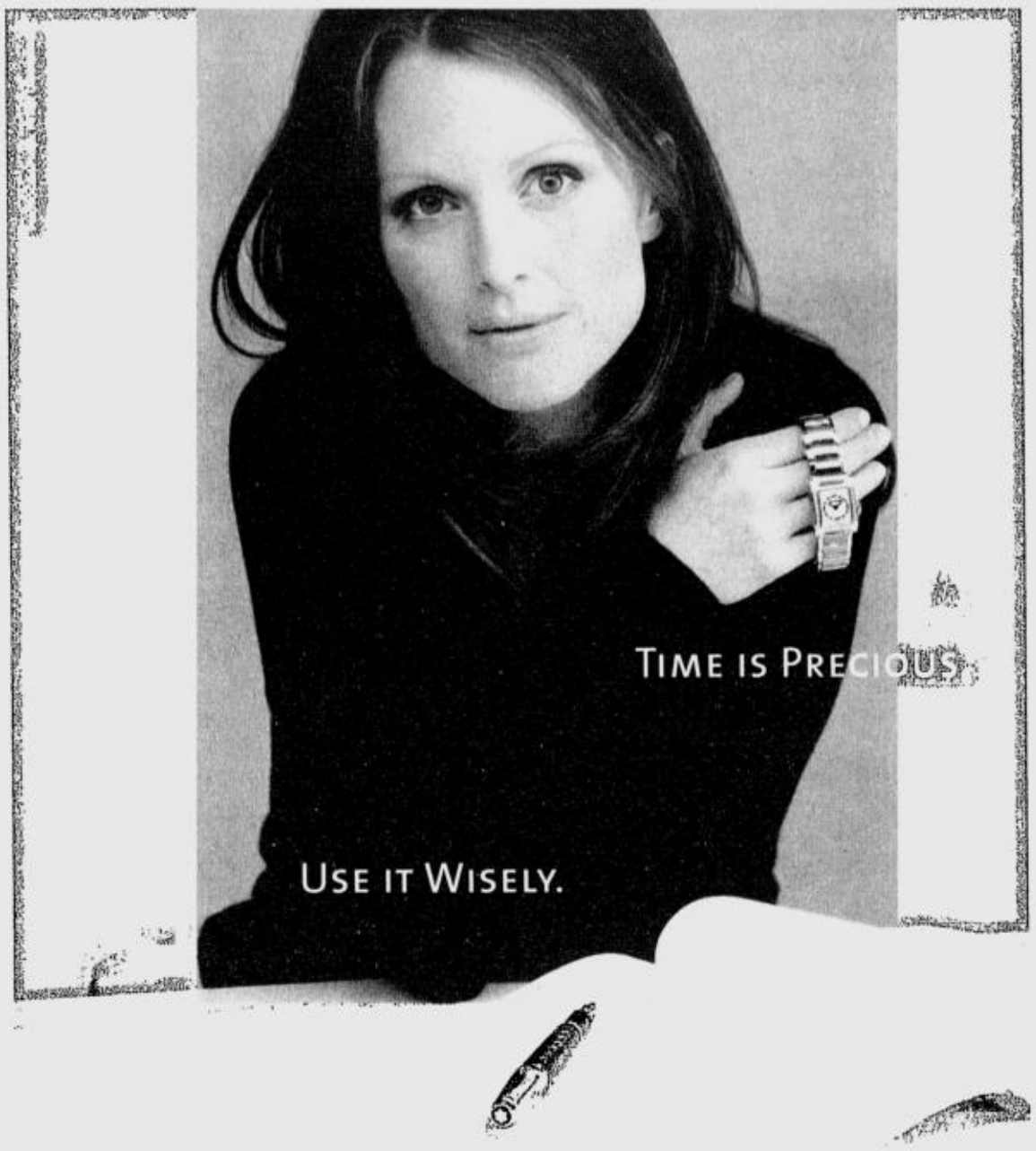
TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

BABIES HAVE THE MOST UNpredictable sleeping patterns. Just when I thought my 5-month-old **Athena** was starting to sleep through the night, waking up only once for the dreaded 4 a.m. feeding, she shifts to another nursing schedule, this time at 2 a.m. Worse, she stays awake and wants to play. I have spoken to other mothers who have successfully tried the US style of not feeding during the wee hours of the

CATWALK/ F4

Because of my height, the only fashion show I can join is one where pets are supermodels



To invest in our future, we must nurture our children's fantasies, and inspire their creativity. This requires access to the arts that too few children have. Join Julianne Moore, Johnny Depp, the Entertainment Industry Foundation, and Montblanc in helping children develop their most valuable asset: imagination. With your purchase of a Montblanc watch or writing instrument, a donation will be made to EIF's National Arts Education Initiative. For more information, visit www.montblanc.com/eif.

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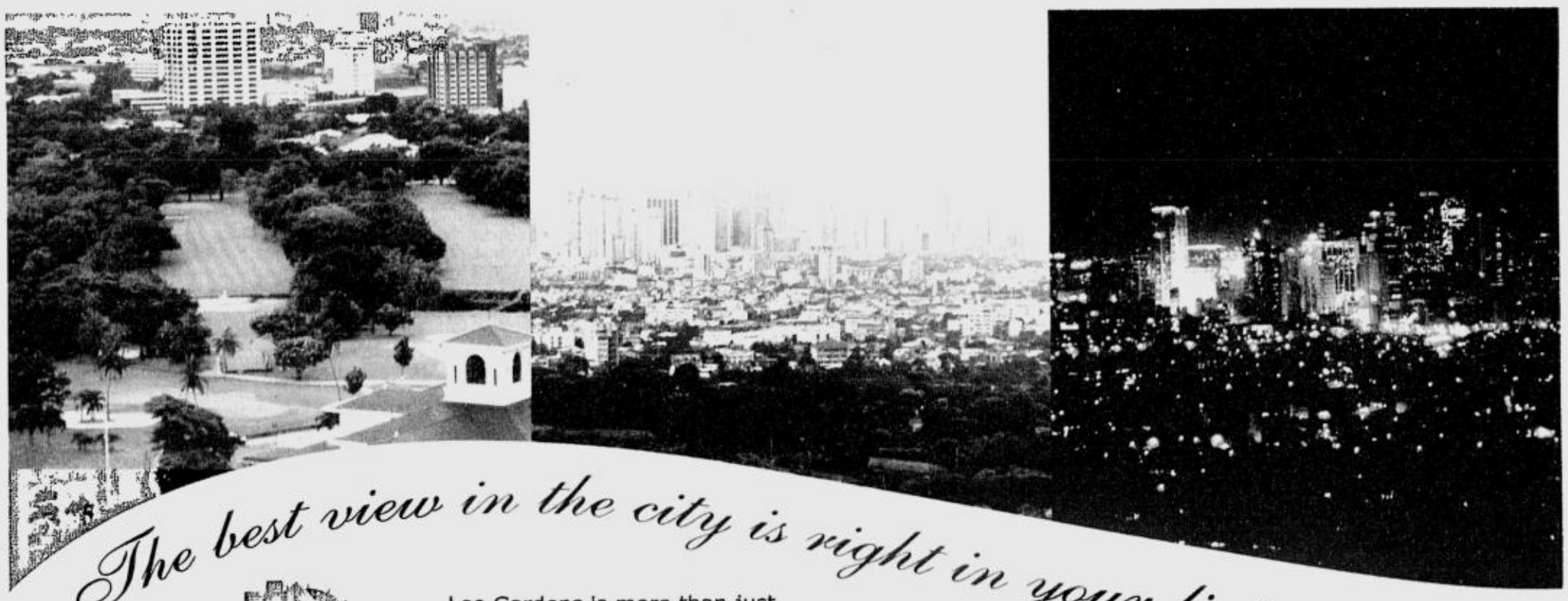

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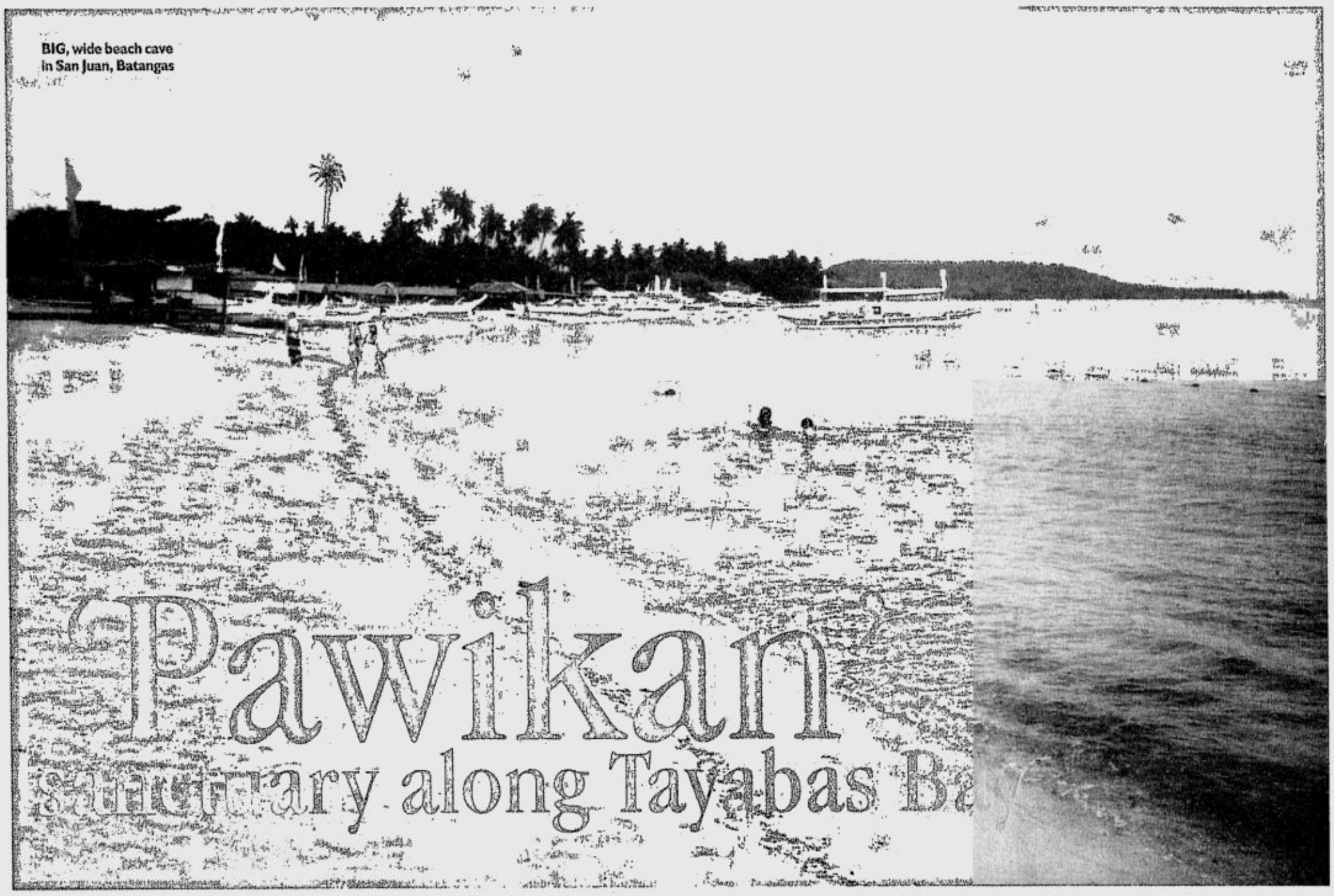

BIG, wide beach cave in San Juan, Batangas

Pawikan Sanctuary along Tayabas Bay

ROUSING sendoff for marine turtle, with author in foreground. Others in photo are journalist Monina Mercado and barangay captain Wivin Llana. RAMON FLORES

Text and photos by Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE COASTAL TOWN OF SAN JUAN IN eastern Batangas, near the boundary with Quezon and facing Tayabas Bay, is known for its quaint houses near the plaza, the baroque Church of San Juan Nepomuceno (constructed in 1890 after the earlier church sank in water—"*lumubog sa tubig*," according to the historical plaque), and functional as well as decorative pottery products.

San Juan also has, to one's pleasant surprise, a Tourist Zone a few kilometers away from the town proper; a big, wide beach cove with white sand and unpolluted waters; and a barangay (Laiya Aplaya) which is a kind of sanctuary, feeding grounds and nesting place for the endangered *pawikan* (marine turtle).

The roads are lined with trees. And hovering along the coast is Mt. Dao-Macuitib which appears to be well-maintained, with greenery and good forest cover, although illegal logging is said to be a problem. A fish sanctuary is found along the barangay of Hugom.

San Juan is more than 100 km southeast of Manila, a 2 ½-hour ride by car, passing through Lipa City and the towns of Padre Garcia and Rosario. The coastline is home to 17 beach resorts (along with others that are inland), led by Kabayan Beach Resort (0917-8963312).

This resort has *nipa* huts, big rooms and cottages (from 4-20 persons), swimming pool, multipurpose hall and other amenities. It is also the home base of Laiya Aplaya barangay captain Wivin Llana, who two years ago initiated a program to preserve, protect and propagate the marine turtles. The activities are in coordination with the Parks and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and environmentalist Ramon DL Flores of Mother Earth Philippines.

Unpolluted waters

"The *pawikan* will live up to a hundred years or more," notes Flores. "It takes 25 years for them to attain sexual maturity. They can lay eggs for as much as seven times; hatching takes 45-60 days. They can lay up to 106 eggs, with normally 98 hatchlings."

He adds, "They eat a lot of jellyfish, squid and fish. There are *pawikan* if marine life is bountiful and the waters are unpolluted."

This is borne out by the San Juan experience.

"Our coastal waters are clean," says barangay captain Llana. "That's why the *pawikan* like them." And yet for a long time there were no marine turtles sighted along the San Juan coast. The sightings actually began over a year ago. Some had followed the fishing nets and had been hooked. Injured slightly, they were rescued and cared for.

Others would be seen just floating, and would be plucked manually by project staff and fisherfolk. Still other *pawikan* would go ashore to lay their eggs and nest. In a few cases, the project has purchased the turtles from fisherfolk.

While most of the fishermen have undergone seminars with PAWB-DENR, you never can tell when they will be tempted to sell the *pawikan*. So Llana buys the marine turtle for a certain amount. "This is to ensure that they will not become *karne* (meat) for turtle soup," as Llana's wife, Edna, put it.

"*Mabait ang mga pawikan* (the marine turtles are well-behaved)," observes the barangay captain.

ANCESTRAL home at San Juan highway

Temporary shelter

Since operations started over a year ago, 25 marine turtles have been rescued or "captured," given temporary shelter in a resort pond, fed, tagged and finally released back to the sea with much funfare. The tag consists of the letter P (for Philippines), plus four digits. This is a kind of ID for the *pawikan*, and indicates that it came or passed through the country.

The turtles are known to travel long distances, and have been monitored from Indonesia and Guam to Okinawa. It is said that after 15 years, they return to their -place of birth.

The other week found us at the Kabayan resort for the release of a big, 60-pound green turtle (the shell is 76-cm long and 69-cm wide) that had been rescued. It was something of an event. Resort aides gingerly lifted the heavy *pawikan* from the shallow waters of the pond. She then crawled around for a time, adjusting to the sand. By this time a small crowd had gathered, and they were told not to shout too much so as not to frighten the turtle.

Then she was strapped onto a surfing board and borne triumphantly to the shore, as lensmen scrambled for a photo op. Smelling the sea, the green turtle became excited and started to crawl back confidently to the waters, as boisterous men shouted: "*Ingat* (take care)!" "*Sumulat ka* (write)!"

It was a joyous experience being up close and personal for the first time with a *pawikan*.

77 party destinations around the world

HSBC, THE WORLD'S LOCAL BANK, throws a party that spans the globe to celebrate its 130th anniversary in the Philippines. The best news is, everyone is invited.

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To join, simply text your top three destinations within HSBC's international network. Each country/territory is assigned a code, a list of which is found in www.hsbc.com.ph.

Text HSBC <code 1> <code 2> <code 3> and send to 2600. This will entitle you to one raffle entry. You can send in as many entries.

"You need not be an HSBC customer. If you are a Filipino, at least 18 years old and residing in the Philippines, you will

TOM Zita and Julie Manning

get a chance to win a trip to a favorite place or a new exotic getaway. Filipinos have 77 destinations to choose from, from Mauritius to Mexico, Canada to China, Brazil to Bahrain, the UK and USA. This is surely a once-in-a-lifetime treat from HSBC you should not miss," says Manning.

During the recent HSBC 77 Destinations promo launch at the Makati Shangri-La, guests who've had a taste of the party scene around the world talked about destinations that topped their list.

For Lia Andanar-Yu, news anchor for ANC Money and ANC Chat, Melbourne and Ballarat top her list. "Australia has almost everything you are looking for, from the Gold Coast's white-sand beaches to Victoria's snowy alps, from lavender and sunflower fields to wine valleys."

Another fan of Australia is Kuok's Tom Zita, who loves Sydney for its weather, food, arts, shopping, sights and security. "And let's not forget the wines—you can time your visit to join a festival or just have a grand time driving around the wine valleys."

Astrud Crisologo, who never tires of traveling to Spain's various nooks and crannies, says Seville's Feria in March is a must-see, being the first and most famous of Spain's big spring fairs. "Imagine—bullfights in the Plaza de Toros, skirts swirling to the flamenco, street parties and sherry by the barrel!"

Jaguar's Maureen Soong counts Spain, Rome and New York among her

HSBC kicks off its 130th anniversary in the Philippines: Suersh Nanoo, SVP for marketing; Warner Manning, CEO; Elaine Dichupa, COO; Martin Cook, deputy CEO

most favorite spots. "Every time I travel to these places, I always have some reason to celebrate—a friend or family's birthday in Spain or an anniversary trip to Rome to rediscover its many museums and churches. I always have a ball in New York because it means bonding time with my daughter. I should start texting now. Hopefully I get to fly to any of these places for free courtesy of HSBC."

With HSBC's 77 Destinations promo, one text is all it takes to win a trip that should send you packing in a jiffy.

To set you off to your favorite destination, text HSBC to 2600 for more information, or visit www.hsbc.com.ph.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Banaue-Sagada tour on Oct. 28

INSCRIBE TOURS IS ORGANIZING a Banaue-Sagada Tour Oct. 28-31 that includes the Rice Terraces, Valley of Echoes, Sumaging and Lumiang caves, Beyer and Bontoc museums, and the Ifugao heritage village.

Also included are visits to the studio of master photographer Eduardo Masferre and the Sagada Weaving Shop and trade center. Call 8405912 and 5758370 or text 0919-8184697.

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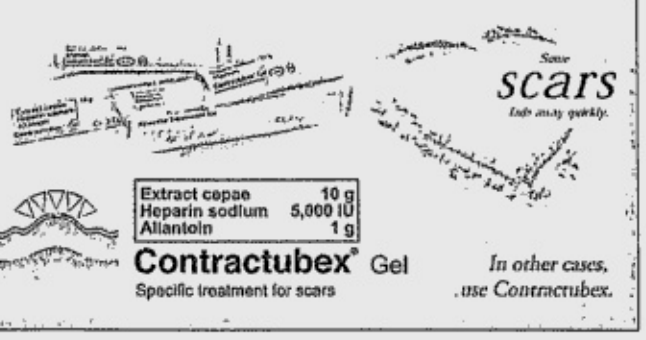

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SUPERFEST

CELEBRATING PINOY YOUTH BREAKTHROUGHS

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Senator Edgardo Angara
Senator Manuel A. Roxas
Lourd de Veyra (Palanca Awardee, Independent Artist)
Emil Flores (Comics Editor, Professor)

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School	
Year & Course	
Landline	Mobile Number
E-mail	

List your extracurricular activities:

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FASHIONABLE cousins Ella Pangilinan and Frankie Pangilinan

CUTE names for cute babies. Athena Valdes and Venice Bektas

NEW parents Glydel Mercado and Tonton Gutierrez with baby Aneeza

EX-MTV VJ and new mom Donita Rose with son JP

SUPERMOM Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan with Hannah and Ella

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Release of test results: Feb. 20, 2006

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Catwalk with animals

From page F1

HANS Montenegro and Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura

CREATIVE chef Rolando Laudico and wife Jackie

MARK Abaya and girlfriend Monica Llamas

ANNA Cabrera, PAWS president, with actress Cheska Garcia

morning, but I can't stand to hear my baby crying.

At the spectacularly colorful first birthday party of **Ruffa Gutierrez**'s second girl, **Venice**, hands-on mom **Maricel Pangilinan** shared a method to rationalize feeding schedules. Instead of tolerating the crying, have your baby nurse suckle just one side of the breast or if feeding from the bottle, slowly decrease the amount of milk you give. By lessening the amounts, the baby will eventually not demand for milk and kick the habit of waking up at night.

When I finally get that done, I will also attempt to toilet-train Athena at seven months. I read in the New York Times that there are a growing number of mothers that are potty-training their babies as early as four months. The technique is to hold the baby by the thighs in a seated position against their stomach and make an encouraging "pss-wss-wss" sound like the one used to call a cat.

There are already support groups in the US that encourage the practice. Get more info from www.diaperfreebaby.org. Early toilet training is a fairly old idea that has been forgotten. But it is being rethought, just like breast-feeding. I think more moms will eventually practice this because of the numerous benefits like savings on diapers.

In the meantime, I am happy with the Pro-Kids diapers Athena wears. Since they have the extra-small size, I started using this brand and have not switched since. I find them quite absorbent and leak-free throughout the night. Thank God the "poo-poo" of breast-fed babies doesn't stink as much as that of formula-fed ones.

My six-month breast-feeding target is just around the corner. Now that I'm there, I might do this longer to enjoy the cleavage I normally don't have. I bumped into top beauty doctor **Vicky Belo** at my second home, Emphasis Salon, where she noticed my temporarily-more-well-endowed breasts. She informed me that by late this year, she would have a laser machine that would melt fat away; this would undeniably revolutionize the liposuction world. If I get desperate, Vicky will be the first person I will call.

New Freeway model

At the intimate gathering to celebrate Freeway's launching of **Cindy Kurleto** as the label's new face, I exchanged baby stories with Freeway owner **Sheree Gotuaco**, who has a baby boy almost the same age as Athena. The big difference is Sheree looks great and has returned to her pre-pregnancy figure! I felt guilty that I was partly there for the delicious food of renowned chef **Rolando Laudico** who served a killer chocolate dessert.

After seeing Freeway's awesome collection of cropped military jackets, faux-fur-lined vests, Pucci-inspired coats and other Russian-looking, very wearable outfits, I was set to diet … soon.

Another method to help babies sleep better is to massage them. In her first social-interaction class, Athena enjoyed the baby massage class of **Rome Kanapi** (tel. 0917-5415114). A certified Lamaze instructor, Rome also holds classes to teach different strokes of massaging babies to ease growth pains, colic or stomach problems. She told me that the growth sprits of babies are at their most rapid stage so daily massages really help release muscle tension.

I wouldn't mind having growth pains! I think I was in Grade 7 in Assumption College when I stopped growing. I really wish both my girls would be much taller than I am so they won't have to dress so outrageously to be noticed.

FREEWAY owners Sheree Roxas-Chua Gotuaco and Katty Roxas-Chua Qua with Cindy Kurleto

PRETTY faces in show biz, Vina Morales and Ruffa Mae Quinto

Pet fashion

With my height, the only fashion show I can join is the one where animals take center stage. Last weekend, I participated in the second Furry Tales pet fashion show at the atrium of SM Megamall. Organized jointly by PowerBooks and the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), various animals like dogs, cats, rabbits, and even a cockatoo and an orangutan sashayed with their human masters dressed as movie characters.

"Matrix"-inspired **JR Isaac** brought along his Lhasa Apso Rama as he modeled with the rest of the Femme Fatale group. Backstage, JR told me that his free events guide, Circuit, is celebrating its first year of publication. One of the best sources of info on events and launches in the city, Circuit has free first-anniversary treats to the hottest bars and will be giving away Johnnie Walker and Motorola cell phones. Grab your free copy or e-mail circuit_treats@yahoo.com.

Since we don't have any pets except the goldfish swimming in our powder room's aquarium, I borrowed Calypso, **Jon-Jon Rufino's** ever-swift whippet who was celebrating her birthday that day. Calypso is a natural model and we both have worked together in the past. Dashing and creative lensman **Tom Epperson** took a stunning photo of both of us in a '60s-style pose, with the dog wrapped in boa feathers.

After more than 10 years, Tom finally has his first photo exhibit, "One Light," on the second floor of Glass Tower Building, Ayala Museum. His black-and-white photos of prominent personalities, all taken out of their usual context and using only one source of light, are truly works of art. Do try and catch his exhibit, which runs until Nov. 2.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

FOSTER-A-FUTURE board Nick Locsin, Irene Francisco, Ricco Ocampo, Fe Rodriguez and Tina Tan

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CREEPY yet quirky pumpkin and sorcerer's hats

Games, contests and fun for Halloween

IT IS TRICK OR TREATING time in all SM Supermalls.

Kids can have Halloween Trick or Treat fun until Oct. 31 in provincial branches (check the schedule for the mall nearest you) and on Oct. 30 in Metro Manila.

SM Department Stores carry a wide range of scary and outrageous costumes and pumpkin baskets for kids who will go trick or treating. Halloween hats are available in all Toy Kingdom branches.

Thrilling treats for Halloween also await children at the Toy Kingdom stores and SM Supermalls. Every P100 purchase of any Halloween item in the stores on Oct. 29 will entitle kids to a Halloween art tattoo.

Toy Kingdom will have a Halloween Fun Party at The Podium on Oct. 30.

Every P1,000 purchase from any mall tenant allows kids to join an afternoon of Halloween costume contests, games and trick-or-treat fun.

Barbie's Masquerade Party in SM Makati will display the popular doll's bewitching side. Every Barbie Magic of Pegasus purchase at SM Makati gets a kid an invite to the party at SM Makati on Oct. 31.

The event will feature a mini Barbie fashion show, games, costume contests and trick-or-treat thrills.

Halloween Fun at SM Supermalls continue until Nov. 2.

On Oct. 30, kids can visit Metro Manila supermalls in their funniest, scariest and most original costumes and join the Halloween Costume Contest. Winners in each mall will receive P3,000 worth of SM gift certificates and toys from Toy Kingdom and Toy World. Registration is ongoing until Oct. 30.

Winners will be chosen on the basis of originality (25 percent), creativity (50 percent) and showmanship (25 percent).

At 1 p.m., Oct. 29, Halloween is going to the dogs in the "Who Let the Dogs Out?" costume contest at the Activity Areas of SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City Bicutan, and SM City North Edsa. A parade of dogs in costume and a seminar on pet care will kick off the event.

Winners in six categories will be announced at 5 p.m.: Most Original Costume, Owner-Dog Look-Alike Costume, Funniest Costume, Crowd's Favorite, Best Comic-Inspired, and Best Filipino-Inspired.

Also to be given are Early-Dog Award, Waggiest Tail Award, Silkiest Coat Award and Most Attentive Ear Award. Prizes for each winner include P1,000 worth of gift certificates, loot bags from Pedigree and Masterfoods, 8R photos, and Electronic Brick Games from Toy Kingdom.

Also scheduled are the Spooktacular Halloween Costume Contest on Oct. 31 at all SM provincial malls, Halloween Hat Contest at Vizmin malls (SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, SM City Davao, and SM City Cagayan de Oro) and Halloween Night after Dark Party at the SM City Pampanga Fiesta Strip, SM City Baguio Veranda, and SM City Lucena.

FLEECY Moose headgear

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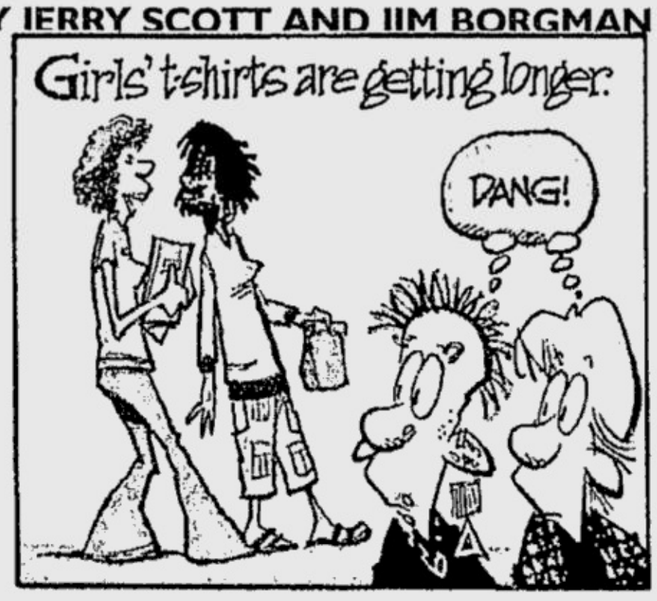
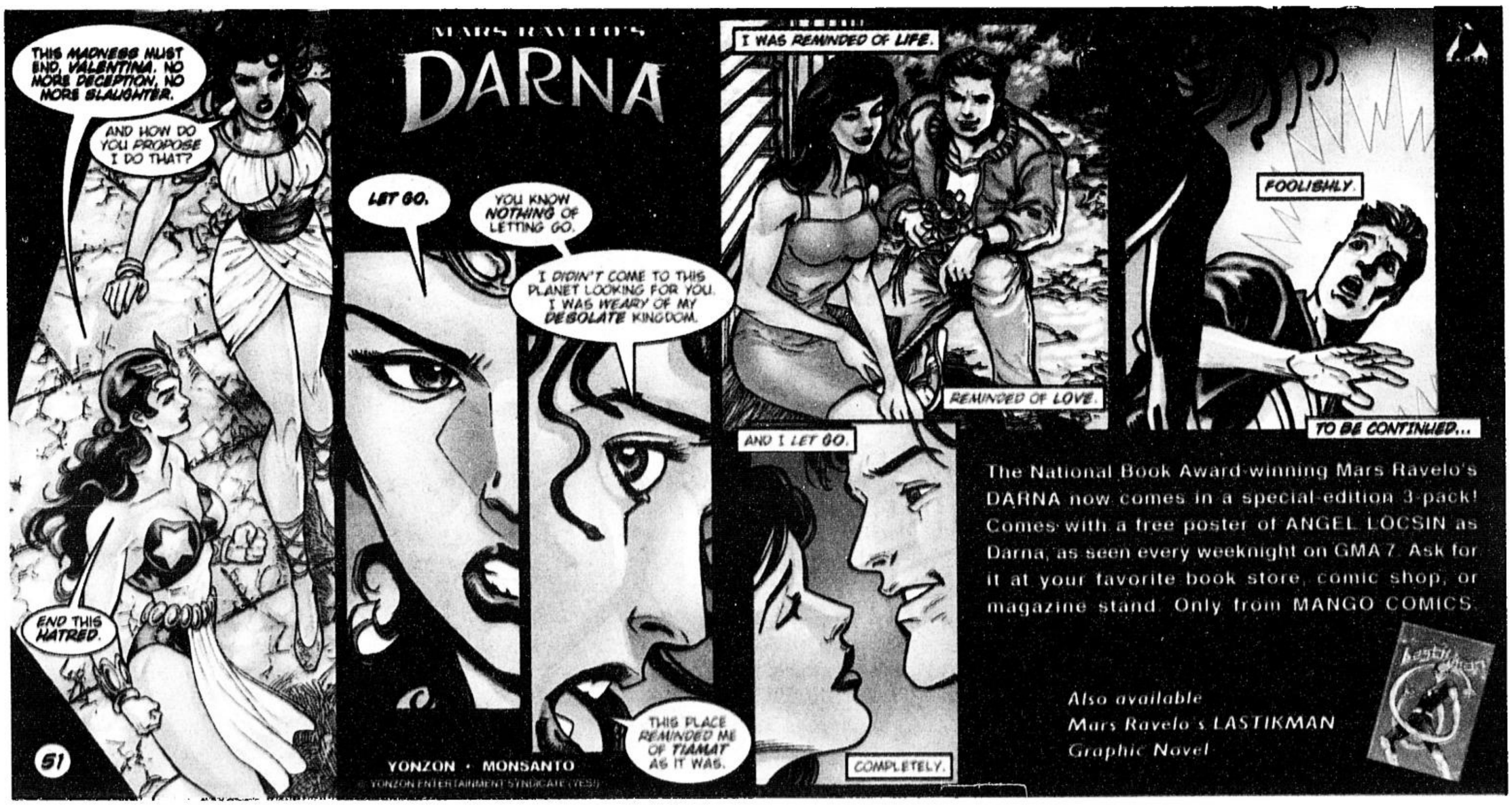


INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA

DARNA

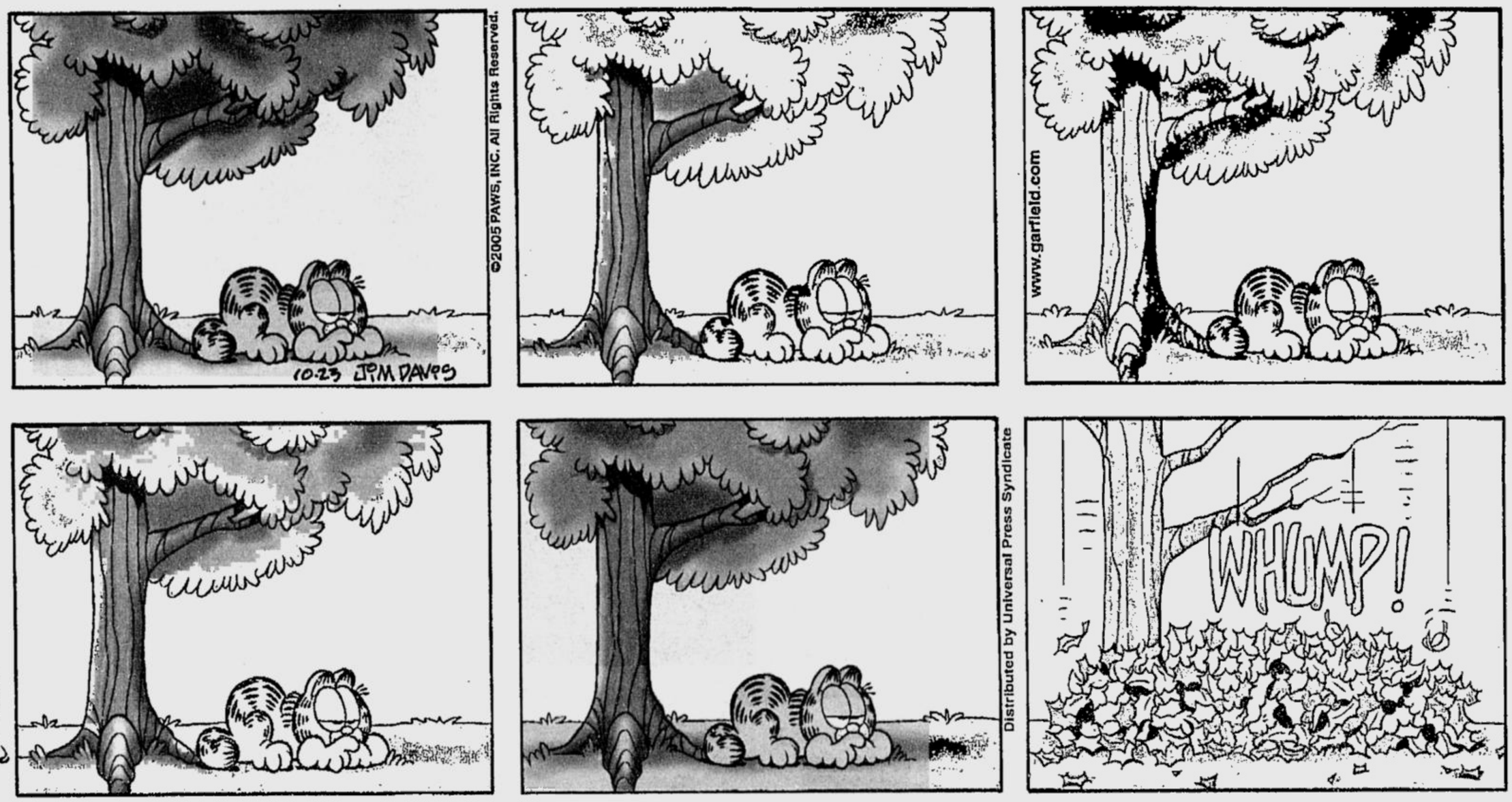
BY MANGO COMICS



FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

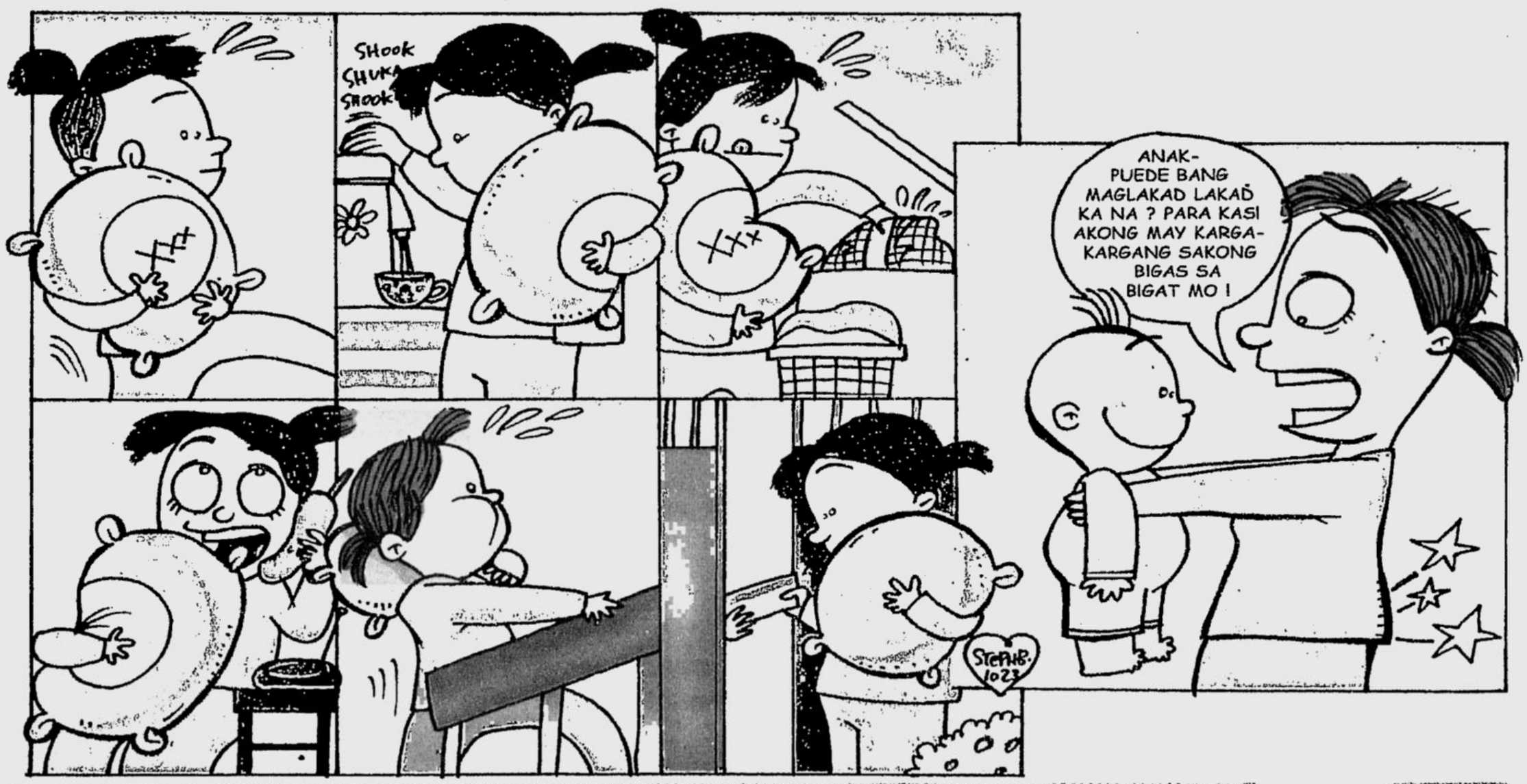
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

International bazaar next month

LOVELY Romulo (center) is overall chair of the International Bazaar Foundation Inc. Other members of the organizing committee are Carrie Bautista, Nellie King, Susie Ortigas, Hilda Antonio, Ambassador Mar Jo Aragon, Ambassador Julie Heidemann, Ambassador Delia Meñez-Rosal, Rose Degroot, Charito Melchor, Soledad Mendoza, Ambassador Mila Perez, Nati Aventura, Tina Carlos, Anie Carpo, Nora Salazar, lawyer Violeta Seva, Ambassador Ruth Morales Prado, Aurora Sagaz, Ada Mabilangan, Alice Favila, Jane Abacan and Celia Quizon.

THE ANNUAL PRE-CHRISTMAS sale of products from various countries under the auspices of the International Bazaar Foundation (IBF), will be next month at the World Trade Center along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, according to Rosie Lovely Romulo, IBF chair.

The bazaar will raise funds for humanitarian projects of the IBF, the social arm of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Since its establishment 39 years ago, the IBF has donated to orphanages, hospitals and clinics, homes for the elderly and wayward youths, and other welfare institutions.

It has also established a scholarship program for poor but deserving students.

About 50 foreign embassies and consulates will bring in the chief products of their countries for the bazaar. Buyers will also be treated to a raffle, Romulo said.

Buy a phone, get a caffeine fix

SONY ERICSSON HAS LAUNCHED Perfect Blends 2005, a special promo in partnership with the National Coffee Development Board.

Over 200 coffee retailers and producers are participating in this year's program.

Until Nov. 30, purchases of Sony Ericsson mobile phones carrying Perks Pack stickers entitle buyers to several coffee perks.

The Perks Pack offers two stubs for free coffee concoctions in participating coffee shops. Customers will get a 10-percent discount on any purchase in a participating outlet upon presentation of the discount stub and the Sony Ericsson unit. A raffle stub gives them the chance to win a three-day, two-night stay in Nami, Boracay.

Sony Ericsson mobile phones are available at Sony Ericsson Concept Shops and authorized dealers.

Visits to participating cafés give customers a chance to win a Sony Ericsson K750i camera phone. The phone offers excellent still and video image clarity with a two-megapixel camera, plus auto focus, 4x digital zoom and red eye reduction.

Nine Sony Ericsson J300i mobile phones will also be given away to lucky coffee drinkers. The J300i can be personalized with a choice of Style-up covers in a variety of designs and by downloading wallpapers, screen savers and ring tones. It also supports music files for ring tones, and video clips of movie trailers and music videos.

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Promo period is from October 1 to October 31 of 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5005, Series of 2005

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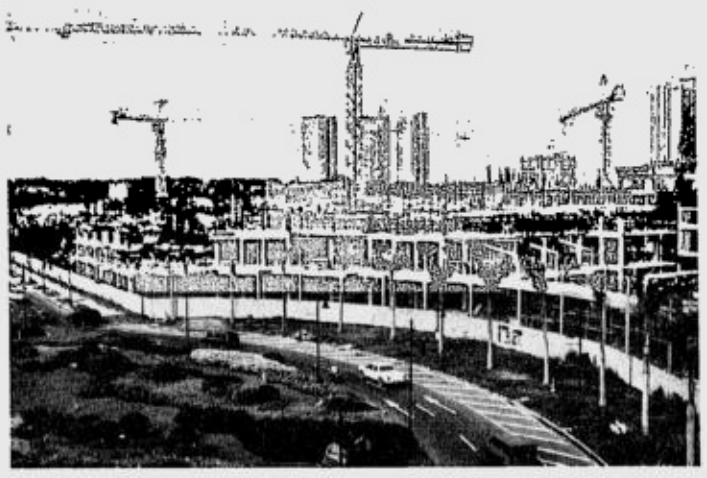
'GARDEN RESIDENTIAL' CONDO SALES BRISK

The local real-estate industry continues to survive the economic downturn as homebuyers are increasingly attracted to residential projects with unique and noteworthy concepts, with amenities that impart added value to their investments.

Serendra, the latest and most innovative residential condominium community in the emerging Bonifacio Global City, is a joint development project of Ayala Land Premier and Community Innovations. Launched in 2004, it is a prime example of a housing development with a unique proposition—a vast environment of greenery that is almost 65% of the whole 12-hectare development.

Actual construction onsite is already 30% complete as of August and approximately 65% of its total units have already been sold. The first phase of the development is set to be turned over to buyers as early as first quarter of 2007, in keeping with Ayala Land's reputation for on-track construction and on-schedule turnover.

"Sales have been brisk," disclosed Kate Ilagan, Ayala Land assistant vice president with the Residential Buildings group. Presently in the market are one-, two-, and three-bedroom units in Sections A, B, C in both Districts of the development. Studio units are available in District 2 only. A new inventory of units in District 2 Section C of the development was recently

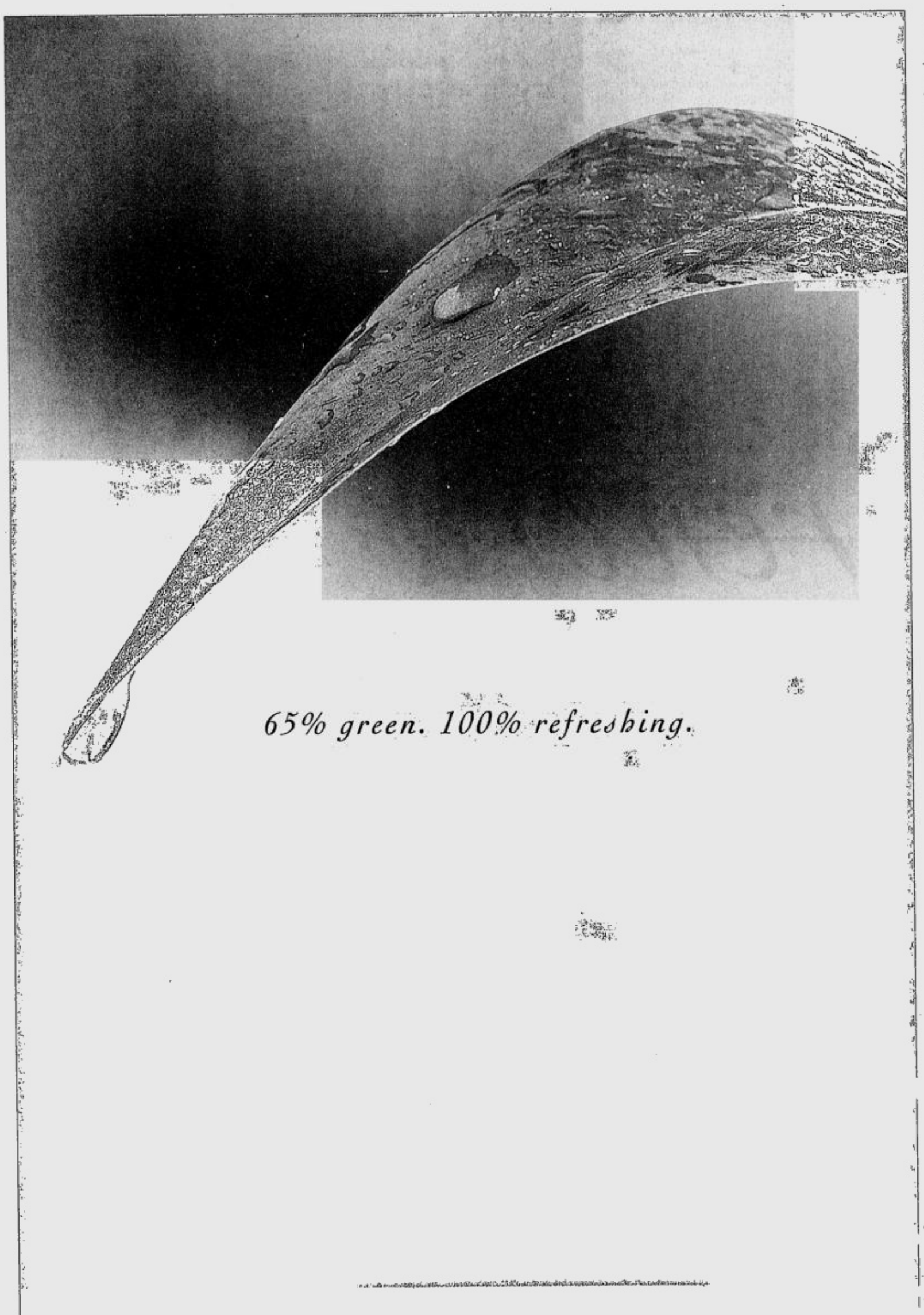


offered to the public in May. "Planning for Serendra took a year and a half to ensure that the land is utilized well, giving space for relaxation and comfort. What we had in mind was a masterplan that will outclass any other," explained Ilagan. "We would like to call Serendra a 'garden residential' condominium development."

The Piazza at Serendra, an international shopping promenade in the heart of the development, is also part of that unique masterplan. Serendra is currently enlisting tenants that will compose The Piazza at Serendra, and its completion date slated at the second half of 2006. The Piazza at Serendra is divided into three main commercial areas, namely: Oriental, Filipino-Spanish, and Continental. These will showcase a mix of international food, specialty retail, and service shops in a two-level indoor-outdoor environment oriented around a landscaped plaza. The Piazza at Serendra will mainly serve as the lifestyle hub of the well-traveled residents Serendra aims to attract, and it will be open to the public as well.

Aside from being strategically located in Bonifacio Global City—near schools, hospitals, and business centers—Serendra boasts of a variety of other amenities, which include themed gardens, such as an orchidarium and orchard, clubhouses, play areas, social halls, function rooms, Zen-inspired drop-off areas, verandas, and many other comforts and conveniences..

Consistent with Ayala Land's philosophy of integrity, reliability and commitment, Serendra is another breakthrough in land property development as it seeks to provide convenience to today's Filipino families. But more than that, Serendra nurtures families by striking a balance between modern-day comforts and nature's timeless grace—more than just about where its homeowners live, Serendra cares about how they live.



65% green. 100% refreshing.

SERENDRA: A REFRESHING RESIDENTIAL CONCEPT

Ayala Land's Serendra breaks new ground in a market crammed with cramped residential options. Located on the sprawling grounds of **Bonifacio Global City, Serendra is a low-density, mid-rise development, over 2/3 of which is devoted to gardens and greenery.** It breathes excitement into the tired scene of standard amenity packages by offering more walkways, bike paths, and numerous swimming and wading pools.

Equally significant is the Piazza at Serendra, a meticulously designed two-level dining and shopping nirvana. Where the pastries of France mingle with the exotic sights and sounds of Morocco, and Chinese silk and Indian weaving meet the impeccable design of Italy. **Marrying the best of indoor comfort and outdoor freshness, this urban haven is the elegant epitome of global cool.** The Piazza at Serendra is just another reason that makes this property one of the most highly coveted residential areas in the country today.

And when you tie it all in to **Serendra's commitment to providing suburban relief in the cradle of urban development, you say good bye to the perennial compromise of space versus access.**

At Serendra, you'll find that you can indeed have it all. And that's what we call refreshing.

Email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph
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Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everday from 9am to 8pm.
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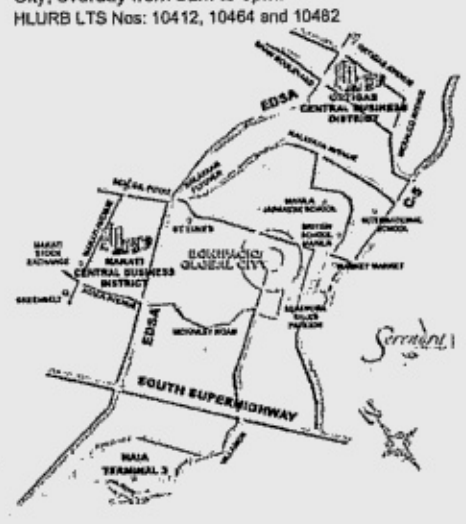

Sprawling gardens. Spacious lawns. Lush hedges. Not just in token amounts, mind you, but in lavish proportions. That's what you'll find at Serendra— a low-density residential area in the prestigious Bonifacio Global City. A singular achievement in modern real estate development, Serendra's freshness is found not merely in its greenery, but in every nook and cranny of its meticulously masterplanned property.

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65% greenery also means only 35% of the property is available for residence (less in fact, since more reservations are being made as you read this.) Contact or visit us and make a reservation today. Call us at ***888-0000*** *or* ***728-7000****. Not doing so might leave you 120% sorry.*

A LUXURY OF SPACE
AT SERENDRA DISTRICT 1

You live the good life. You enjoy the finer things—a comfortable ride home in your luxury sedan, the finest wines to go with your gourmet meal, the softest sheets to ensure a good night's sleep. Above all, what matters is that you know the best things in life are not necessarily free—investment also comes in the form of spending a little bit more to enjoy comforts and conveniences that will go a long way in pampering your body and your mind.

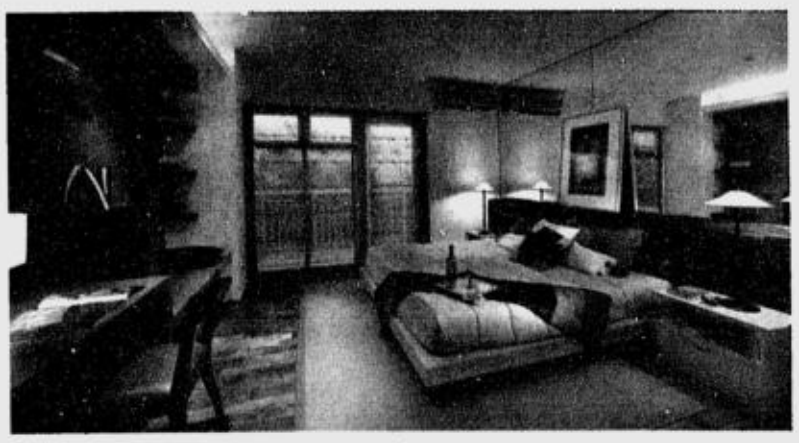
At Serendra, there is a place that is perfect to call your home—Ayala Land Premier's District 1, a sprawling garden residential development, provides just the ideal luxury of space for discerning individuals or families who place a premium on ease, relaxation, contentment and well-being.

Unit sizes at District 1 are meant for the assurance of privacy and security, and freedom of living. Whether in a one-, two-, or three-bedroom abode, you will feel an effective escape from the city, buffered even more by the greenery that surrounds you in the form of landscapes, themed gardens and open spaces. After a day at work or a tiring travel abroad, your home serves as a soothing retreat and sanctuary for your soul. Find your own personal space within the vast greenery and serene surroundings.

It will not be difficult to feel relaxed with the fine appointments of District 1 units. Discriminating tastes will appreciate such details as narra parquet flooring and natural stone kitchen countertops. Well-seasoned travelers who enjoy topnotch hotel services can expect little but meaningful conveniences such as hot tap water or an audio-video guest annunciator. There are even walk-in closets in select units to provide the ultimate indulgence in your treasured personal effects. Special units with wraparound views and numerous open balconies are available for those yearning for even greater space to build their lives in.

Expect no electrical interruptions with 100 percent power backup. This and other meticulous property management tasks are taken care of by the reliable Ayala Property Management Corporation, preserving the value of your investment and even adding more value to your home.

At District 1, you can live your life at your own relaxed pace. Top amenities are equally spacious, efficient and low density, assuring



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Serendra
An AYALA Community

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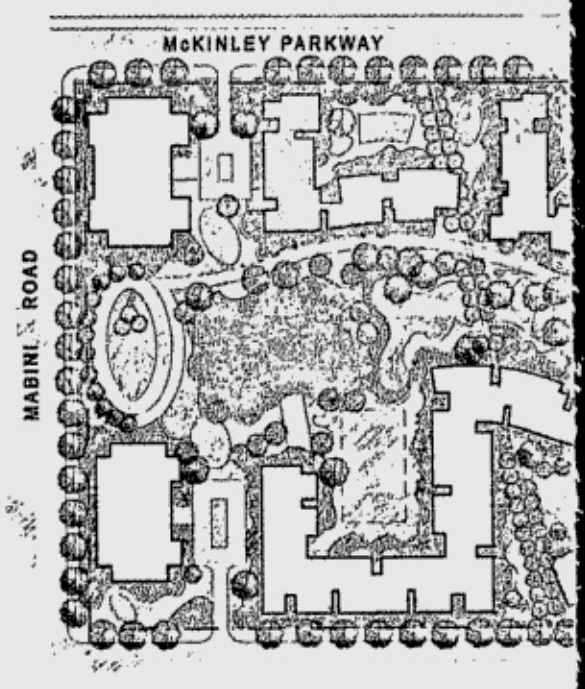
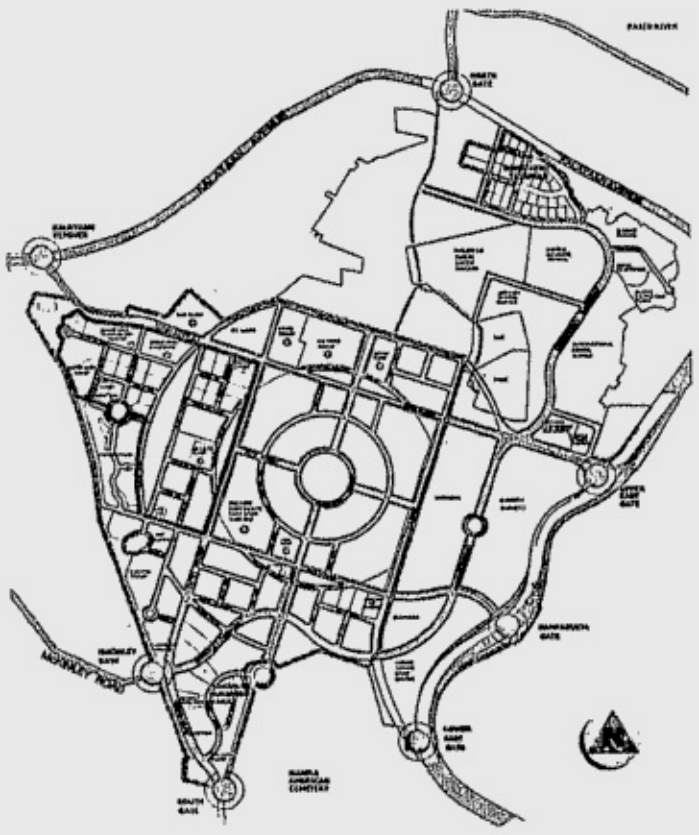


BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY:
THE EMERGING NEW METROPOLIS



Anticipation is definitely building as the Bonifacio Global City, the prime property complex in Taguig, carefully but surely emerges with a retooled masterplan to become the new center of work, trade and leisure in Metro Manila. It is a vision that will allow individuals and families to achieve the perfect balance among life's most important aspects—work, play and worship; body, mind and spirit.

With the expertise and resources of the Ayala-Campos group, together with the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation, the 240-hectare district adjacent to the Makati Central Business District is poised for growth and development, aiming to provide an environment for the total, holistic lifestyle of its denizens. From workplaces to residences, shops to bars, and enclaves to open spaces, the Bonifacio Global City will nourish a way of living like no other. It will serve as a natural extension of the pioneering Makati CBD. Indeed, this new proposition is the promise of Bonifacio Global City—a self-contained area where its inhabitants will progress together with the very environment they live in.

This early into the 20-year masterplan of the district, the Bonifacio Global City is already evidently developing right on track toward its goal. Numerous office buildings and spaces are host to progressive start-ups and renowned companies alike, supported by commercial areas with popular entertainment and leisure attractions. Conveniences for daily living are set in place, for everything from grocery shopping to home building. Most especially, hospitals and educational institutions ensure the care of both body and mind. Open spaces and landscaping also play essential parts in the development of the district.

In the future, the Bonifacio Global City will realize its full integration mainly charaterized as a streamlined, pedestrian haven. Walkways, bike paths and vehicle-controlled roads will complete the vision of a district where everything is within reach yet life is at a pace one wishes to dictate. Vital to the masterplan is a signature strip of landscaping and mixed-use development, crossing the heart of the Bonifacio Global City to form a grand statement to the holistic lifestyle of the district.

Here, the various aspects of play and recreation, commerce and business, and serenity and spirituality will be brought together in one continuous experience, both literally and figuratively. From the commercial center Market! Market! on the east, it will traverse a path of mixed-use residential and commercial areas with landscaped open spaces, ending with a spiritual culmination at a place of worship on the far west.

Other locators and developments within the Bonifacio Global City will share in the vision. For instance, Serendra, the garden residential condominium of Ayala Land Premier and Community Innovations, is an integral component of the east-west experience. Its own masterplan of 65% greenery, in turn, is in synergy with the Bonifacio Global City vision. The Piazza at Serendra, an international hub of unique and sophisticated shopping, is likewise part of the retail experience of the strip and the Bonifacio Global City's own promenade area.

With so much potential waiting in the wings, being a part of the Bonifacio Global City action would be of topmost priority for those who wish to live a holistic lifestyle and to ride on the wave of progress this new metropolitan district will bring.

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VIBRANT COMMUNITY LIVING
AT SERENDRA DISTRICT 2

For the young, urban professional, shopping for a home is often tainted with compromise. The demands of a budding career and a thriving social life create divergent needs few residential choices can adequately satisfy. The city, with its much coveted accessibility, contains high levels of noise and pollution most would rather do without. And farther flung areas, though less stressful to the soul, can cut off the very best parts of a young and progressive lifestyle.

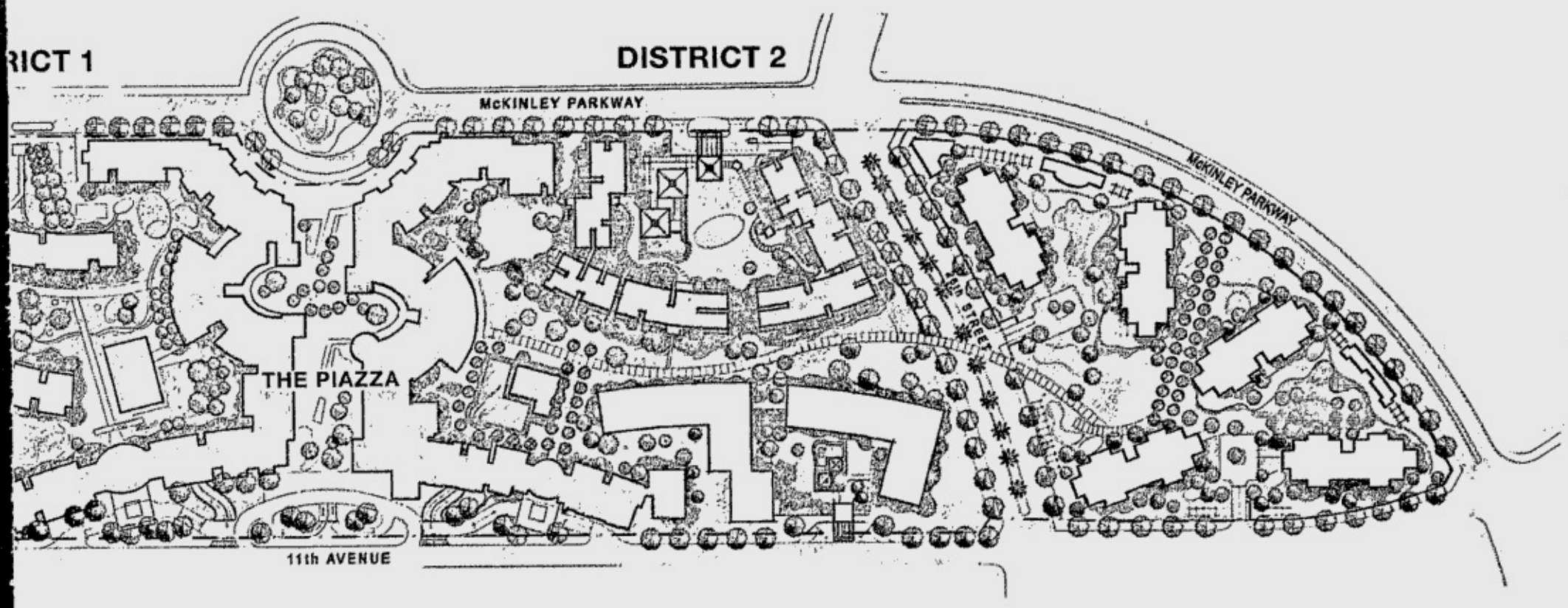
Fortunately, Serendra offers the best of both worlds. Community Innovations' District 2 promises efficient yet inventive use of space, fostering a fast-paced community culture that's appealing to most of today's young, urban achievers. At Serendra, accessibility, creativity and affordability merge seamlessly, opening up opportunities for interaction within and beyond the confines of the city.

District 2 offers fair-sized units ranging from 36 to 120 square meters. Clients can choose among tastefully designed studios, one-, two- or 3-bedroom homes. Whatever they choose, they still enjoy a piece of greenery. After a hard day at work, you can go to the gym, swim in the pool, or make use of the jogging paths bordered by landscaping.

Serendra allows you to live the active dynamic life you enjoy. Shop at the hippest of stores. Have coffee with friends. Get your hair done at a salon. Sample some of world's best cuisines. For a change of scenery, drive over to any of Makati and The Fort's numerous bars and restaurants for a night out. And once you're done, home is just minutes away.

At District 2, you can shift lifestyles as often as you want. Its units' standard features and finishes speak of only the highest quality and value for money. Complete kitchen systems installed in all of the units will enable you to cook up a fabulous spread for your family and friends. Provisions for convenient home living are also available, from water heating systems to washer and dryer connections to ensure that you are able to focus your energies on building the kind of successful and fulfilling life you want.

Whatever your mood or personality is at the moment, District 2 will work for you. From festive get-togethers with friends to precious quality time with yourself, from business meetings to family days, Serendra has just the right place in which you and people you care about can gather. A community with multiple facets, it's designed to accommodate even the most demanding of achievers—people who work and play hard, and want the best they can get from either endeavor.



THE PIAZZA
AT SERENDRA TAKES SHAPE

A unique and authentic international shopping and dining experience is gradually taking shape at The Piazza at Serendra. The highly-anticipated commercial complex within Serendra will be open to the public as early as June next year.

Sprawling over a two-level, 7,000-square meter promenade, about 60 percent of The Piazza at Serendra will be comprised of food establishments, while the remaining 40 percent will be retail outlets and specialty stores. Several restaurants are already in the works, conceptualized exclusively for The Piazza, with specialty shops offering unique, genuine products from various countries and cultures.

Francis Roxas, senior division manager for the Commercial Centers Group of Ayala Land, revealed that The Piazza at Serendra will feature Spanish, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Indonesian, Middle Eastern and Filipino cuisines, among others.

"We are talking to familiar names in the restaurant business such as Larry J. Cruz, Ricky Gutierrez, and the owners of fine restaurants such as Gaudi, Portico and Hossein's. In fact, we have signed agreements with them," reported Roxas. Truly, Serendra's culinary offerings are from the best of the best in the industry both here and abroad.

What makes The Piazza at Serendra interesting and truly distinct is that many of the stores will be conceptualized exclusively for Serendra. This is in line with Serendra's commitment to a unique and authentic theme. Quaint but bountiful, varied but one-of-a-kind merchandise—the boutiques will be as true as one could get to discovering well-kept secrets in the international shopping scene. Cultural shops will give the actual experience of flavors, sights, and textures as if one really visited foreign lands.

As early as now, the Piazza at Serendra is already creating great buzz among the discriminating set. It also adds value to Serendra's proposition of providing unique comforts and conveniences close to home, most especially to well-seasoned travelers who seek to relive their global shopping experiences. The Piazza at Serendra is expected to attract not only prospective homeowners within Serendra but also those from nearby Makati and other communities as well.

As Roxas aptly puts it, "The experience of promenading at The Piazza, which is contained in the meticulously-planned Serendra community, is already unparalleled entertainment in itself."

A JOINT VENTURE OF

AYALA LAND, INC.

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
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E-mail: serendra@ayalaland.com.ph
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A FORETASTE OF THE SERENDRA LIFESTYLE

Imagine a world where there is lush greenery as portrayed in the paintings of renaissance artists. To most, those scenes are long gone. Tall trees have been replaced by modern architecture. The shrubs have given way to plant boxes. Yet, amidst all the modern infrastructure rising like mushrooms, portraits of nature are still possible as can be found at the pioneering residential community called Serendra.

At Serendra, one does not only reside at the heart of nature but also lives and breathes a healthy lifestyle. This is possible through walkways and jogging paths that encourage a slower yet active pace of living. Apart from literally being surrounded by greenery and themed gardens, one could actually enjoy it, too—residents can pick from the fruit-bearing trees in the surroundings and in the mornings, prepare a healthy breakfast and pluck fresh leaves from the herb gardens.

Such reminiscence of joyous European provencal lifestyle is what inspired Ayala Land to give a foretaste of what it is like to live in this garden residential development. Recently, Ayala Land officers invited selected media personalities to rediscover Serendra through a complete organic course meal specially whipped up by prominent restaurateur Margarita Fores.

The simple, intimate occasion was held at the quaint outdoor gazebo of the onsite Serendra Pavilion in Bonifacio Global City. Contributing to the overall natural atmosphere were the breathtaking vines that were in full bloom, the earthy music playing, the delightful centerpieces on the dining table, and the greenery that surrounded the whole area. These provided the soothing and rejuvenating experience of being in such a magical place and to enjoy a sumptuous meal.

Fores, a self-professed health enthusiast herself, concocted a tempting appetizer classic pappa al pomodoro (aged parmigiano-reggiano, sweet basil), followed by spinach cannelloni with mushroom tris (caramelized onions, porcini crema, leek spuma). The main course was organic crepes torta with asiago melt (roasted asparagus, squash flowers, goat cheese) and a siding of watercress, fennel, five-herb salad (truffle honey vinaigrette). The meal was culminated by almond-crusted millefoglie (mascarpone foam, candied fennel, carrots and celery, and Batangas cacao lava). Exquisite in taste and surprisingly delightful—the all-organic meal was a fitting tribute and reflection of the Serendra lifestyle that will soon be a reality to metropolitan denizens, with a projected initial turnover in early 2007. Serendra does not only offer beautiful homes and surroundings—more than caring about where one lives, Serendra cares about how one lives.

SERENDRA: AN INVESTMENT IN PROGRESS, A LEGACY OF BEAUTY

There's more to making an investment than sheer numbers. **More than anything else, an investment is an act of optimism.** Of hope. Of faith that the future holds brighter things. This holds specially true in the case of Serendra.

Developed by industry leader Ayala Land Premier and situated in Bonifacio Global City, Serendra is at the crucible of progress. Minutes away from the country's premiere business district, prestigious schools, the best hospitals, and the hottest shopping deals.

Of Serendra's 12 hectares, over two-thirds is devoted to greenery. That means residents get space, space, and more space. Specially so since Serendra isn't some cramped high-rise development designed to cram as many people into an area as possible, but a low-density, mid-rise project unlike any other in the country.

Serendra marries the best of European and Filipino architectural concepts to give a feel that is at the same time homey and cosmopolitan. Global. But definitely yours.

The property is being looked after by the prestigious **Ayala Property Management Corp. Famous for their responsiveness, their attention to detail, and their thoroughness, APMC makes sure the value of your investment never erodes.**

All these make Serendra a highly viable property for leasing out. And an even wiser choice for those looking to leave something behind. A way of ensuring that the things you value today will endure and be around for your children (and even their children) to enjoy.

Email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph
or visit www.serendra.com
Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everday from 9am to 8pm.
HLURB LTS Nos: 10412, 10464 and 10482

There's more to Serendra than the greenery that meets the eye (and there's a lot of that, make no mistake). Developed and managed jointly by Ayala Land Premier and Community Innovations, and maintained by the Ayala Property Management Corporation, Serendra isn't just a splendid place to let a family take root. It's also a wise investment that's guaranteed to be fruitful as well.

Serendra
An AYALA Community

A JOINT VENTURE OF

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65% greenery also means only 35% of the property is available for residence (less in fact, since more reservations are being made as you read this.) Contact or visit us and make a reservation today. Call us at 888-0000 or 728-7000. Not doing so might leave you 120% sorry.

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Applause! All hires get passes to MTV Staying Alive Music Summit for HIV/AIDS on Dec. 1.

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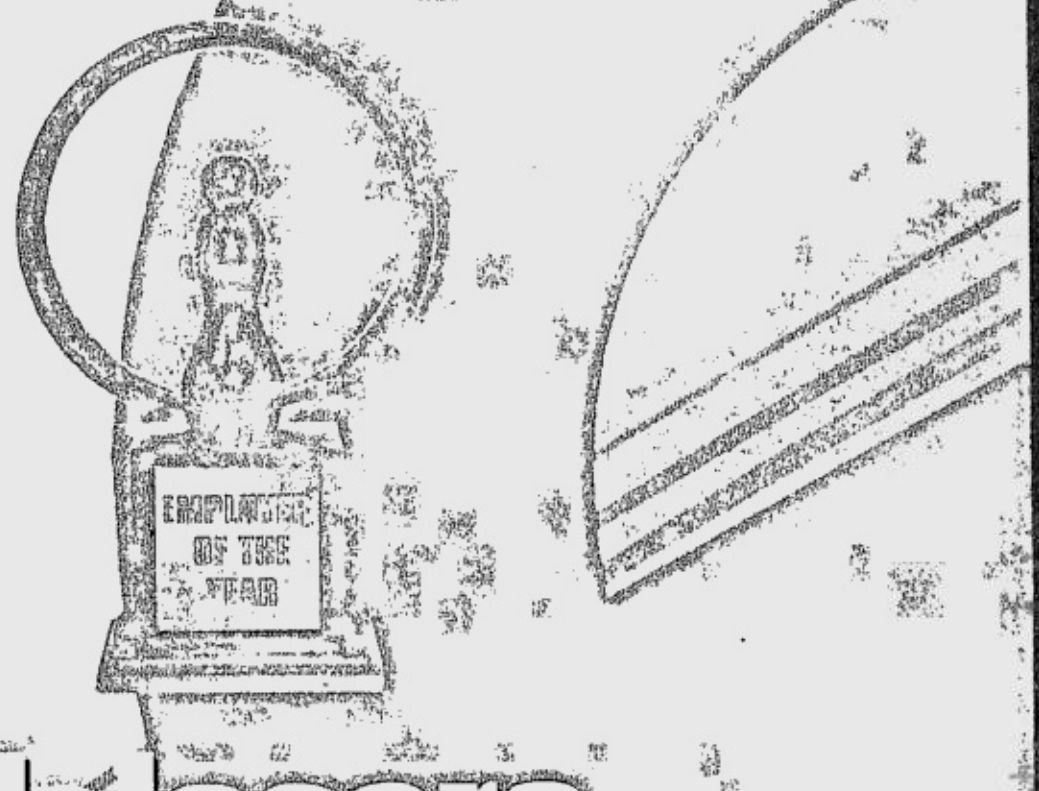

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MANAGERIAL

The United Nations Development Programme and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) are in search of qualified candidates for the posts of **Manager, Project Associate, Administrative/Finance Officer and Administrative Assistant** for the Project Management Office (PMO) of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), which will be the responsible agency to undertake the Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for the Convergence of Poverty Alleviation Efforts (SIMCPAE) Project and the Microfinance Sector Strengthening Project (MSSP). A single PMO for these two projects will be based at the NAPC office at the ATI Bldg., Elliptical Rd., Quezon City.

PMO Manager

Reporting directly to the National Project Director (NPD), S/he will perform the following functions:

Project Management

1. Manage day-to-day operational activities of the SIMCPAE and MSSP projects.
2. Organize project strategic planning.
3. Prepare the Annual Work Plan and quarterly workplan and manage their implementation.
4. Monitor overall project progress, ensuring the timely implementation of project activities by consultants and partners.
5. Prepare terms of reference for consultants/contractors.
6. Prepare accomplishments and financial reports as required by the government and UNDP.
7. Ensure timely administration and effective financial management of the Programme including financial record-keeping, internal control management, budgeting, cash flow forecasting, fund transfers and documentation both at the project and partner organization levels in support of AWP implementation.
8. Approve contractual commitments of the Programme based on the delegated approval authority.
9. Provide support on advocacy campaigns and knowledge sharing activities.
10. Ensure effective human resource management of the Programme including staff recruitment, selection, induction, performance appraisals, training and development.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in economics, social sciences, development management or related fields.
- At least 5 years experience in programme/project management and development, including design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization.
- At least 2 years experience in implementation of UNDP projects or international development agencies, an advantage.
- Experience in design and implementation of poverty reduction programmes.
- Training on results-based management and rights based approach, development administration, management and resource mobilization.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, as well as strong program planning and management skills including administrative and human resources management.
- Ability to work cooperatively with others in the performance of tasks.
- Proficient in the use of various MS Office application softwares, such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, among others.

Project Associate for Poverty Reduction

Reporting directly to the PMO Manager, s/he will perform the following functions:

1. Define the terms of reference for the conduct of activities, facilitate consultations with key stakeholders to design and plan specific interventions, monitor the implementation of activities and prepare progress reports for NAPC on SIMCPAE.
2. Assists in managing the implementation of the SIMCPAE Project's activities, ensuring conformity to results and the approved AWP.
3. Assists in the preparation of the AWP during the course of the project.
4. Reviews and evaluates project proposals and other programme-related documents such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Terms of Reference (TORs), assessing completeness and adequacy of outputs to ensure proper delivery of subcontracts.
5. Provides appropriate advice and technical support to the implementing agency/partners on National Execution (NEX) policies and procedures in programme implementation, reporting, financial management, procurement, recruitment, travel policies, among others.
6. Conducts regular monitoring and review of project deliverables/outputs under the AWP.
7. Participates in programme assessment meetings, and assists in reviewing Programme progress, determining implementation issues/bottlenecks and corresponding remedial measures as needed.
8. Provides recommendation/s on policies, systems, procedures and tools for effective AWP implementation to include results-based management.
9. Assists the PMO Manager in advocacy campaigns and knowledge sharing activities.
10. Assists the PMO Manager in networking and coordination with partners.
11. Performs other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the PMO Manager.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Social Sciences and related fields; Masteral units/degree an advantage.
- At least 3 years experience in programme implementation/management, including monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilization of poverty reduction projects.
- Previous experience in implementation/management of UNDP-supported projects or international development agencies, an advantage.
- Training on results-based management, development administration, management and resource mobilization.
- Proficient in the use of various MS application softwares such as Excel, Word and Powerpoint.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Project Associate for Microfinance

Reporting directly to the PMO Manager, s/he will perform the following functions:

1. Define the terms of reference for the conduct of activities, facilitate consultations with key stakeholders to design and plan specific interventions, monitor the implementation of activities and prepare progress reports for NAPC on the MSSP.
2. Assist in managing the implementation of the MSSP Project's activities, ensuring conformity to results and the approved AWP.
3. Assist in the preparation of the AWP during the course of the project.
4. Review and evaluates project proposals and other programme-related documents such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Terms of Reference (TORs), assessing completeness and adequacy of outputs to ensure proper delivery of subcontracts.
5. Provide appropriate advice and technical support to the implementing agency/partners on National Execution (NEX) policies and procedures in programme implementation, reporting, financial management, procurement, recruitment, travel policies, among others.
6. Conduct regular monitoring and review of project deliverables/outputs under the AWP.
7. Participate in programme assessment meetings, and assists in reviewing Programme progress, determining implementation issues/bottlenecks and corresponding remedial measures as needed.
8. Provide recommendation/s on policies, systems, procedures and tools for effective AWP implementation to include results-based management.
9. Assist the PMO Manager in advocacy campaigns and knowledge sharing activities.
10. Assist the PMO Manager in networking and coordination with partners.
11. Perform other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the PMO Manager.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Social Sciences and related fields; Masteral units/degree, experience in microfinance capacity building and familiarity with the ASA microfinance model are advantages.
- At least 3 years experience in programme implementation/management, including monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilization of microfinance projects.
- Previous experience in implementation/management of UNDP-supported projects or international development agencies, an advantage.
- Training on results-based management, development administration, management and resource mobilization.
- Proficient in the use of various MS application softwares such as Excel, Word and Powerpoint.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Administrative/Finance Officer

Reporting directly to the PMO Manager, s/he will perform the following functions:

1. Oversee financial management operations, including related systems modifications for simplification and seamless integration with UNDP system that include:
   - keeping orderly record of project files;
   - keeping the project financial records/bookkeeping;
   - preparing vouchers for payments;
   - ensuring efficient communications within the project management and the project partners;
   - assisting in organizing planning meetings, workshops, etc., as necessary;
   - procurement and inventory of project office supplies and materials;
2. Supervise receipts and payments management, e.g. local and foreign payables, payables and receivables and payroll-related transactions
3. Act as committing / certifying officer for all UNDP administered funds.
4. Supervise accounts, records and file management functions e.g. review and identification of the integrity of monthly accounts, bank reconciliation reports, and ensures that issues are addressed and actions completed on time
5. Ensure cost effectiveness and quality of accounting services through continuous process of improvement and automation
6. Perform cash management functions e.g. banking-related services and treasury transactions, as well as compliance and reporting management functions.
7. Keep abreast of all updated procedures, rules and regulations relevant to assigned functions.
8. Perform other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the PMO Manager.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree relevant to the field; CPA an advantage
- At least 3 years experience in financial management. Experience working for UNDP or any development agencies / projects an advantage
- Must be proficient in the use of various MS application softwares such as Excel, Word and Powerpoint

Administrative Assistant

Reporting directly to the Administrative/Finance Office, s/he will perform the following functions:

1. Provide support to the administrative/finance officer in the exercise of the latter's functions.
2. Assist in providing NEX and administrative assistance to the PMO, implementing agencies and responsible parties (both government and civil society organizations) of the AWP in the aspect of portfolio operations and management.
3. Assist in monitoring AWP project outputs and deliverables.
4. Monitor AWP financial and administrative operations.
5. Provide support in organizing national and international missions, meetings and conferences, project site visits.
6. Provide public information on queries received regarding programme-related concerns.
7. Prepare and updates schedules of meetings and appointments for the PMO.
8. Perform other related duties that may be assigned from time to time by the PMO.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree relevant to the field
- At least 3 years experience in administrative work; previous work with UNDP and other development agencies / projects an advantage
- Must be proficient in the use of various MS application softwares such as Excel, Word and Powerpoint

All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 30 October 2005. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until 30 October 2005.

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- must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization
- with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- team-player, goal-oriented and be able to work under pressure
- must be computer literate

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Please bring a curriculum vitae, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture, transcript of records, SSS Number, SSS Employment History, duly filled out application form and photocopy of transcript of records / Diploma.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS/ PROGRAMMERS

- Male, not more than 35 y/o;
- Graduate of Comp Sci, IT or related field;
- At least 1 year experience in similar capacity with strong exposure in OOD, UML, ERD, N-Tier Architecture, XML, ANSI SQL and reports creation in JAVA environment;
- Solid background in VPN, Network Security, IDS, IPS with knowledge in UNIX administration, TCP/IP, DNS configurations, firewalls, gateway/router configuration, WAN/LAN, hardware interfaces, computer/ network trouble shooting, PC/LAN architectures;
- Background in Java Beans, Java swing, applet, JSP, Servlet, Data Structures, Graphics; knowledge of different Web & Application Server, C/C++ programming; Background in ASP, ADO, COM, COM+, DCOM, Web Service, IIS, Apache, Perl, CGI, PHP, CORBA, SOAP and OLAP a plus;
- Proven verbal and written communication skills; can compose/document routine reports.

WEB/SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS

- M/F (preferably single), not more than 30 y/o.
- Graduate of Comp Sci, IT or related field;
- At least 6 mos experience in similar capacity;
- Background in OOD, UML, ERD, ANSI SQL and reports creation in JAVA environment, UNIX Environment;
- Knowledge of Java Beans, Java swing, applet, JSP, Servlet Data Structures, Graphics, Flash Macromedia or any animation software, adobe photo shop or any artist application development tools;
- Knowledge of diff. Web and Application Servers, C /C++ programming, functional HTML editing & HTML tags;
- Proven verbal and written communication skills; can compose/document routine reports;

TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF

- M/F (preferably single), not more than 30 y/o;
- Graduate of Comp Sci./Eng'g, IT or related field;
- At least 6 mos experience in similar capacity ;
- Knowledge of network/database administration, network/POS cabling and troubleshooting;
- Knowledge in TCP/IP, OSI Layers and networking device;
- Familiar with Windows XP/2000/2003 desktop and servers;
- Knows how to implement DNS, DHCP, WINS, Active Directory, Print Server, File Server, SMTP, POP3, and NNTP;
- Knowledge in Linux Distribution: Redhat Linux, Slackware Linux, SUSE Novel, OR Solaris;
- Proven verbal and written communication skills; can compose/document routine reports
- Team-player, patient, hardworking and client-oriented;

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- *Highly driven and motivated*
- *Experience on property management an advantage*

MARKETING / SALES ADMIN ASSISTANT

- *Graduate of Business / Psychology / Communications*
- *Excellent communication skills*
- *Knowledgeable and proficient in computers (MS Office, Internet)*
- *Not more than 24 YO*
- *Highly driven and motivated*
- *Fresh graduates are welcome*

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- *Licensed Engineer*
- *Site experience an advantage*
- *Highly driven and motivated*
- *Knowledgeable and proficient in computers (MS Office, Internet, Autocad)*
- *Not more than 24 YO*
- *Fresh graduates are welcome*

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ASSISTANT CENTER MANAGER
One (1) - Three (3) years managerial position in a call center; account management experience and client coordination skills preferably in an existing assistant manager position; should have experience handling at least one hundred (100) agents at a time; excellent verbal and written communication skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
College graduate; Must have two (2) years supervisory experience, at least one of which should be in Operations

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(Technical and Customer Service account)
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(Outbound account)
Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory / outbound training experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and must have an energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skill

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College graduate; excellent interpersonal skills; proficiency in the use of computer and various applications; attentive to detail; highly motivated, assertive and can work under pressure; well organized; thinks out of the box; innovative

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College graduate; excellent in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint; previous experience as Administrative Assistant is an advantage; ability to multi-task

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Graduate of four-year Accounting course; one (1) year of accounting experience is preferred; willing to extend long hours and willing to work on Saturdays and holidays if necessary

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Very knowledgeable in Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal reports, MySQL, Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

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Third / Fourth year college (preferably business or accounting course) required to complete On-the-Job training hours

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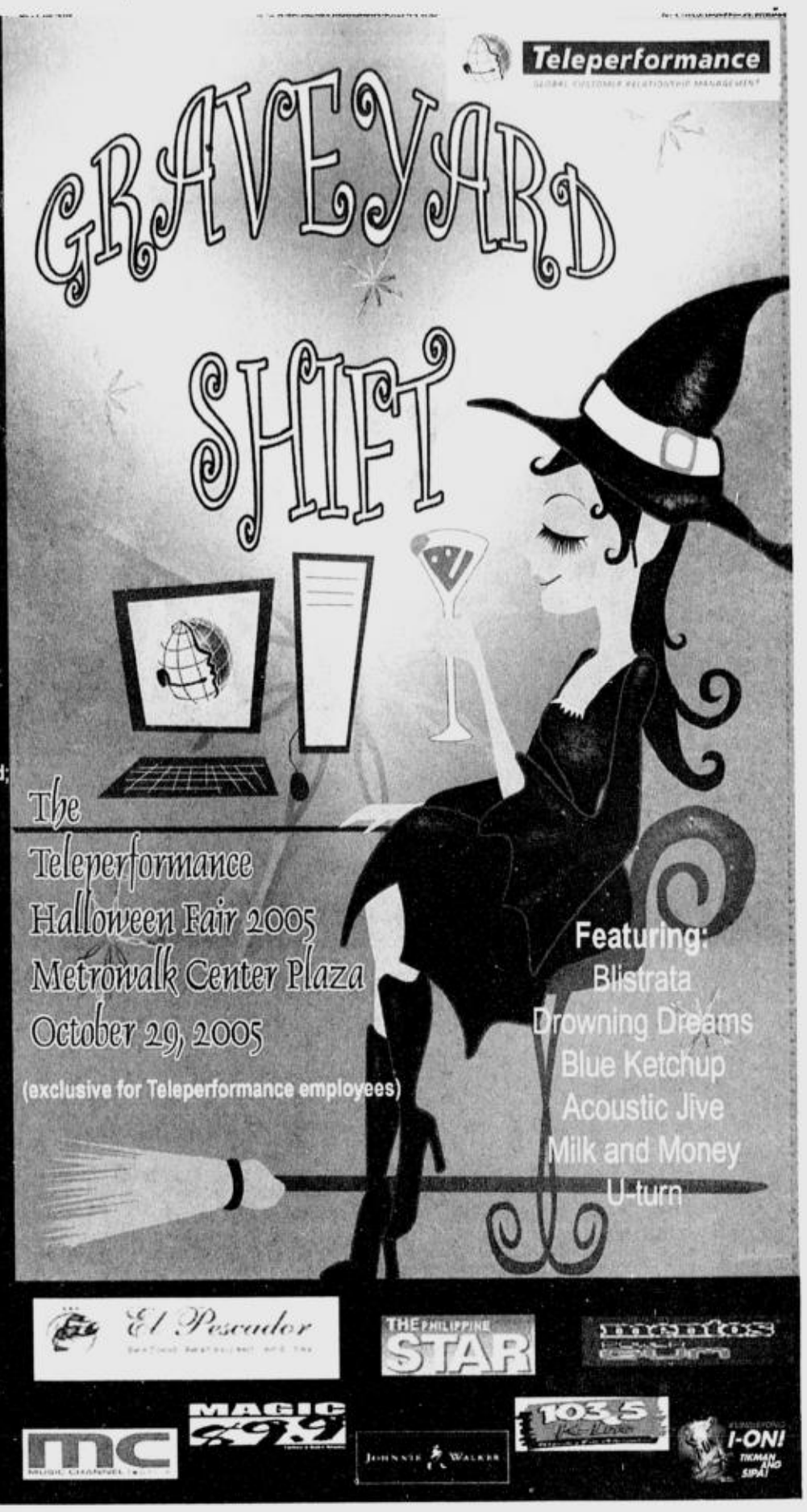
(please indicate the position in the subject field)



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- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must have a high energy level and highly adaptable to a dynamic and fast-paced environment
- Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills

THOSE WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS MAY SEND THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2 X 2 PHOTO TO:

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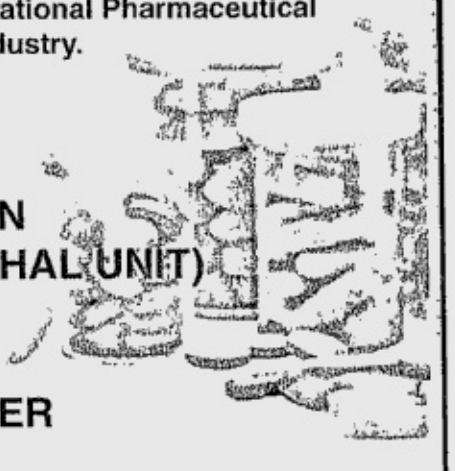

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- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions

Customer Relations Service Manager/ Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for the planning, promulgation and implementation of the over-all security program of the Company

- Male/Female
- not over 35 years old
- graduate of criminology or any 4-year business course
- male must be at leat 5'5 1/2 & female must be at least 5'2" in height
- with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel
- with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior
- with keen investigation skills, detail - oriented and physically fit
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Office Assistant

(Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)

- Male/Female
- not over 35 years old
- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communications Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Service or any 4-year business course
- Personalble, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

If you believe you are the ideal candidate, you may apply personally at:

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P.O. Box 1996, Makati Central Post Office 1200

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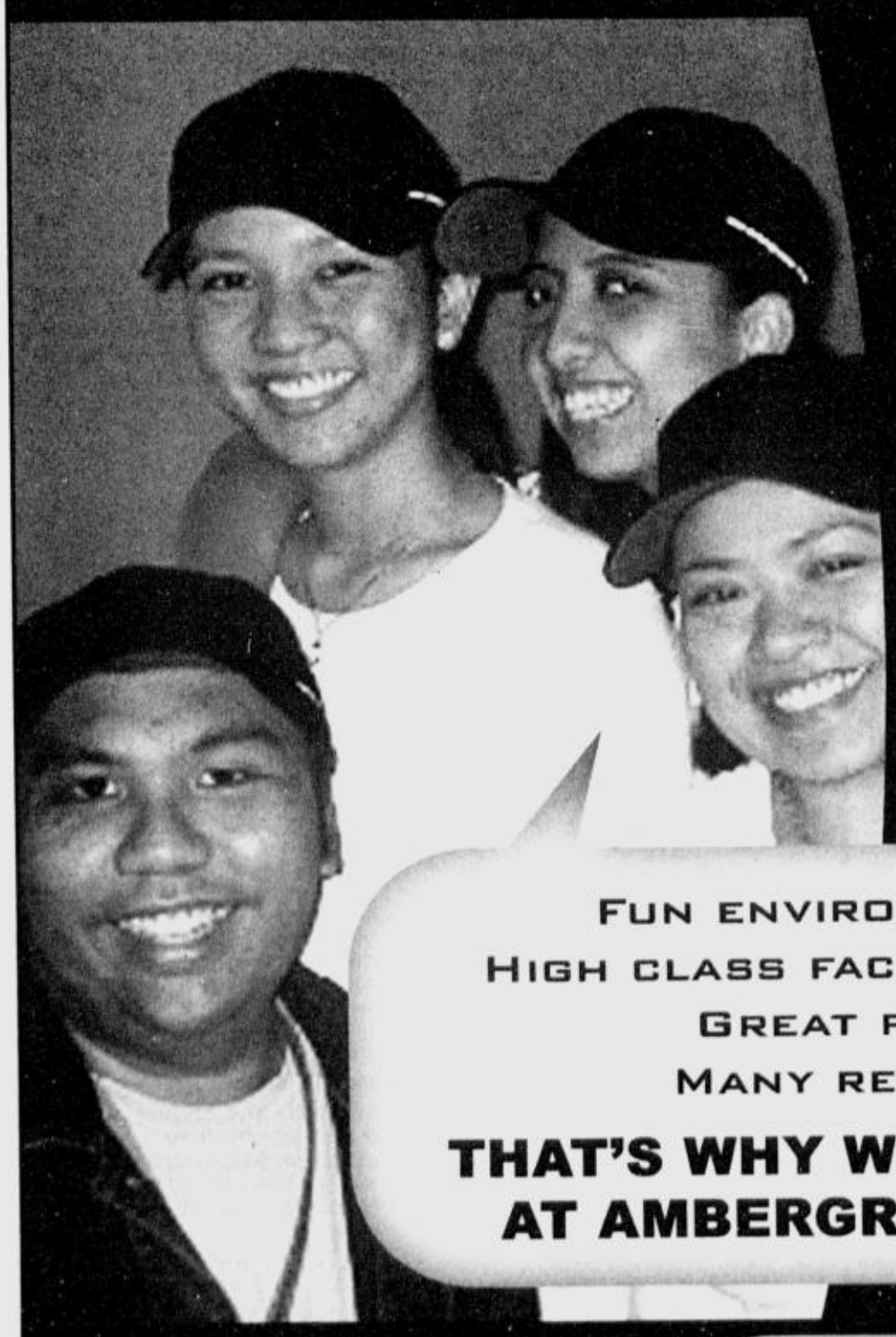

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Medicine's loss is HR's gain

By Hernani P. Geronimo
Contributor

HR Focus

EMERICO OCAMPO DE Guzman or Rico, as his professional peers call him, had initially eyed a career in medicine. "My father's orders," he revealed. This meant that he must prepare himself for the academic and physical rigors of being a physician. His father, Ricardo, a retired personnel manager of the Angeles Electric Corporation and his educator-mother, Esmeralda, a retired district supervisor of the city schools of Angeles City, made sure of this.

In Pampanga, where his roots are, he excelled. He completed his grade school at the Sto. Rosario Elementary School, a public school and his secondary education at the Sacred Heart Seminary as salutatorian. In college, heeding his father's urging for him to become a doctor, he enrolled at the University of the Philippines where he obtained his BS Psychology degree. "It was really meant to prepare me for medicine proper. But I figured if I took Psychology, I can have a fallback just in case," he enthuses.

De Guzman was class valedictorian and corps commander of the UP ROTC. He ended his stint as UP Vanguard supreme commander and was awarded Philippine Army's cadet of the year in 1976.

Entry to HR

Hard work and discipline certainly are sterling qualities, which he found useful as he weighed his option of either plunging to another four years of medicine proper or venturing to something else. By then, the possibilities for a young, impressionable man were endless. However, earlier on, he felt the calling; his field of dreams was of and with people.

"I had this personal desire to reach out to people. After graduation and the opportunity came for me to start working, I took the drill and was hired as employee relations assistant at USIPHIL Inc," de Guzman explains

He genuinely developed a fondness for what he was doing. "This is where passion is rekindled even more. "When work is fun, there is fulfillment," he shares. Thus, from his initiation as employee relations assistant, he went on to hone further his HR practice by joining the National Housing Authority (NHA). "I joined NHA in 1977 as personnel specialist and later on was named OIC of its recruitment center. Then as now, organizational capability building starts with getting the right people. I made sure I added value on this aspect."

Lifelong learning

This left an impression on his superiors who recognized his fine HR work and rewarded him with a steady climb to the top of the HR success ladder. He was so good as an'HR practitioner that he was being promoted almost yearly and was at one time or another the chief of the recruitment and testing center and personnel division manager of NHA until he ended his stint as the agency's assistant department manager for human resources development in 1983.

Aware that learning is a lifelong experience (another HR paradigm which he adheres to), de Guzman balances his work with his desire to professionally develop. Thus, he attended night classes at the UP College of Law while with the NHA until his graduation in 1982.

While preparing for the rigors of the bar examination, de Guzman faced the added challenge of taking and subsequently passing the Foreign Service Officer examination, the other most-difficult-to-pass competitive examination, next to the admission to the Philippine bar.

This qualified him to join the Philippine foreign service initially as vice consul. A career in diplomacy would have been fitting for him, but when he also passed the bar in 1983, he waived his appointment as vice consul. "I knew that I could better pursue my passion for people and be a dyed-in-the-wool HR practitioner by being a lawyer instead of becoming a diplomat," he says.

Thus, the ACCRA law offices immediately took him as associate where he handled, apart from corporate and litigation cases, issues related to labor. "Managing people well is serving the ends of justice. After all, justice is giving every man his due. This is the essence of good human relations, the DNA of HR practice," he explains.

Indeed, as de Guzman made a name in ACCRA, rising to become the youngest senior partner of the law firm in 2003, he has not let go of his HR connection. He is in-charge of the performance evaluation of the firm's legal staff while acting as monitor of its labor and employment department.

Inspiring others

"The principle of law is clear and simple. The best asset being people, therefore, those who have less in life, indeed should have more in law. This is not lost as I practice my profession as lawyer simultaneously as a people-and-organization-development practitioner." He declares that, "society is made better when the primacy of human resources and his dignity is nurtured and protected."

De Guzman has not stopped putting people ahead, helping them develop and grow, inspiring others. "Teaching them to fish is a lifetime commitment. This was a pledge I made when I realized that by

DE GUZMAN

not being a doctor or diplomat, I actually have touched more lives as an HR practitioner because from selecting raw talent to ensuring a purposive development intervention for them, I know that their lives would vastly improve."

De Guzman is married to Juliet Evidente, a math graduate of St. Scholastica's College and one-time teacher at the Ateneo, where his children, Julo, 19 and Mico, 15, are studying. "I have in my children the inspiration to continue elevating people as the only asset that really matters, anytime," he says.

What is the best way to get a job, according to research?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR READERS: THERE IS often little research to back up most career advice. Richard H. Price is different. For the last 20 years he'd interviewed thousands of jobseekers to learn what works and what doesn't. Dr. Price is a Professor of Psychology and Research Professor in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Working Wounded: What is the most surprising finding in your research with jobseekers?

Dr. Price: Job loss is demoralizing, nobody taught us how to search for a job while we were in school. And yet, with a ray of hope about job prospects and an inventory of their marketable skills, jobseekers should feel more optimistic about the job-search process.

WW: What is the biggest obstacle for the average jobseeker to overcome?

Dr. Price: Planning for the setbacks that will inevitably occur in a job search.

WW: What are some of the other common challenges that unemployed people must overcome?

Dr. Price: Economic strain, a cascade of other stressors that come from being short of money, marital and family stress, feeling like you are the only one in that spot, depression and despair, uncertainty about staying in the same line of work or not, knowing how to approach prospective employers, etc.

WW: Have you found any differences between people who were laid off or fired?

Dr. Price: Not really. Often, it is difficult for the person to even know whether he has been laid off or fired. Employers much prefer to do a layoff rather than a confrontation and firing.

WW: You've read a lot of career advice, is there any commonly given advice that is just plain wrong?

Dr. Price: Just giving advice isn't as successful as having the jobseeker go through an "active learning process."

WW: What is the key to becoming a formerly unemployed person?

Dr. Price: No single key, but the crucial ingredients include: using job information from your personal social network, doing an inventory of your marketable skills (you have many more than you think), do information interviews with lots of potential employers, not asking for a job, but learning as much as you can about the potential employer and planning for setbacks. Everyone experiences some "no's" before the "yes."

WW: If you had a magic wand, based on your research, what would you change?

Dr. Price: All job search programs would involve genuine social support from skillful trainers, active learning and role playing, no long didactic lectures, practical tips and always positive encouragement. Unemployed people seeking jobs are often fragile and need positive genuine support as well as tried and true techniques for search.

WW: Have you identified any differences between people who are successful and who are not successful at getting a job?

Dr. Price: Yes, people who can give concrete, specific examples of how they overcame a workplace challenge when being interviewed, who are upbeat, confident, and know their marketable skills are most successful. We teach people how to do this.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

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- Preferably with office experience

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Qualifications:
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- At least 1 year circulation / marketing experience in related field is an advantage
- Communication Skills, Entrepreneurship, Partnering / Networking, Negotiation Skills, Presentation and Project Management Skills, Knowledge in computer applications
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PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST
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- Understanding in color management systems
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PHOTOGRAPHER
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- At least 1 year experience as photographer in Publication or Wire agencies

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Qualifications:
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- 1 year experience as researcher
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E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

POWERSPEAK'S PERSONAL AWARENESS AND LEADERSHIP SEMINAR. Shown are the graduates of Batch 5 of PowerSpeak's Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar (PALs) held last Oct. 14 to 16. The graduates attest that the three-day seminar was highly insightful and truly life enhancing, providing them with an enlightening fresh perspective towards life. PALs is based on the fundamental principle that each individual possesses unlimited, untapped potential and unlocking these allows a person to achieve greater results and abundance. Also in photo is facilitator Joey P. Reyes (wearing a suit, first from left). PALs Batch 6 is slated on Nov. 11 to 13. Interested parties may inquire at 840-5958 and 840-5960, or text 0917-5555639. You may also email them at powerspeak@gmail.com or log on to www.powerspeakph.com.

LIVING THE TECH-SAVVY LIFE

A day in the life of a tech-savvy professional continues

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

(Continued from last week)

3:45 p.m. MOBILE PHONE and hands-free. Traffic is heavy as Kevin weaves his way through the city going to the airport. His phone rings and he takes the call. He puts on the attachable earhook and talks to his secretary leaving his hands free to drive. Most headsets like Kevin's ear hook allows hands-free operation with the microphone attached to the earpiece.

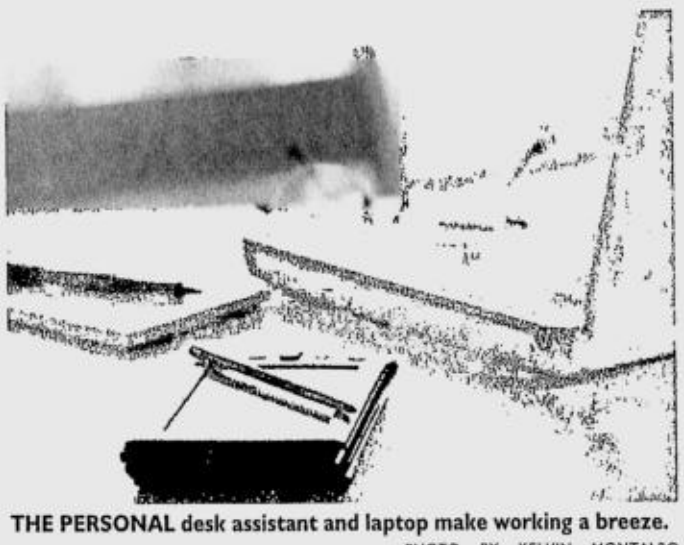
As he avoids a huge bus trying to cut his lane, he listens to his secretary's last minute reminders. The tangle of commuters is getting worse and he's trying to figure out a quicker way to get to the airport before he misses his flight to Bacolod. As soon as he ends the call, he sends a text message for accurate traffic updates and thanks the heavens for the wonders of mobile technology.

Aside from the basic features, Kevin says a mobile phone should have a Bluetooth. Bluetooth is a wireless way for devices, like cell phones to computers, to exchange data. Kevin's headset for example is Bluetooth-enabled. A Bluetooth-enabled headset can cost anywhere between P2,000 to P5,000. Squirrel away up to P20,000 of your pay to acquire a decent phone with Bluetooth.

4:30 p.m. PDA. After finds a quicker route to the airport, the phone rings again. It's his boss asking him to look at a report; he needs Kevin's immediate feedback. The IT consultant obliges and asks his boss to e-mail it to him. While waiting for the green light, he picks up his PDA (personal desk assistant) and checks his e-mail. Before the green light flashes, he already has formed an opinion on the numbers in front of him and speed dials his boss. Based on his input, the boss orders a meeting for next week. Kevin refers back to his palmtop, checks his calendar and sees an opening on Wednesday. Satisfied, the boss finally leaves him to focus on his driving.

Invest around P25,000 for a PDA or handheld computer. If you have the right paycheck, go full blown and buy one with a cell phone incorporated in it. This means that for P45,000 you will have the ultimate assistant that makes calls, sends fax messages, browses the Web, checks your schedule, keeps track of all your contacts and so much more. It may not be able to make you coffee, but it will never ask for a raise.

4:45 p.m. Digicam and Memory Card. A few minutes away from the airport, Kevin spots a huge flashing billboard that gives him an idea for a site he's presently working on. He likes the color scheme and the play of images. On the next stoplight, he fishes out his tiny digicam and takes several shots of the billboard. With a 3x optical zoom lens combined with a 10x digital zoom, his 7.0 megapixel camera gives him a clear shot even from several meters away. A few shots of the billboard and he's happy. So he doesn't forget his camera, he simply slips it in his breast pocket. Not much bigger than his credit card, the ultra lightweight and compact digital camera slides in easily.



THE PERSONAL desk assistant and laptop make working a breeze.
PHOTO BY KELVIN MONTALBO

For people like Kevin, it's all about portability and convenience. If you're not really into photography and simply need a camera to capture moments for posterity's sake, go for point-and-shoot digicams. Each year brings another megapixel added to digital photography, but you don't have to join the race feeling that you should have the most megapixels. Three to four megapixels (MP) will take you decent pictures, 3.5 MP will give you good 8R prints. Unless you're thinking of taking art gallery photos, leave the five and above mega pixels to the professionals. Prepare between P12,000 to P15,000 for a 4MP.

Incidentally, if you don't have an MP3 player, pick a digicam that allows voice recording. Some cameras could double as a voice recorder. And don't forget to include a memory card in your budget. Although most cams have internal memories, they can only store up to 10 photographs on the highest resolution. Invest on at least a 128MB memory card. If you're a picture happy person, you can go for 256MB, 512MB or even 1GB. Be prepared to spend anywhere between P1,500 to P3,800.

7:22 p.m. USB flash drive. The sun has set but our tech-savvy hero's adventure is hardly over. We find him fidgeting in his room. He made it in time for his flight with barely a second to spare but in all the confusion, he misplaced his luggage. Airport attendants are currently trying to trace his belongings and have reassured him that he will be updated in a few hours. Oddly, he's more worried about what he'll wear for dinner than his laptop. That's because he always backs up his files on CDs with his burner. Suddenly, he remembers he has to e-mail something to a client in New Jersey who will be up in a few hours expecting his e-mail. He rummages through his pockets and issues a sigh of relief as he fishes out his thumb drive.

In a few minutes, Kevin is in the hotel's business center e-mailing his client a report he earlier prepared and saved in his thumb drive. That's the beauty with thumbdrives or flash memory drives, they're like mini hard disks that you bring anywhere with you.

Don't be fooled by these super key chains.Not much bigger than the average thumb, they can store up to 4 gigabytes of data! All you need to do is plug it in via the USB drive and be gone with the cumbersome floppy disks. This tiny technology also known as pen drives or key drives, can fetch to at least P1,500 for a 256MB capacity. You also might want to look into flash drives with integrated WLAN adaptors.

9:00 p.m. Wireless broadband. Back in his hotel room, Kevin is relieved to find his luggage intact. While he's digesting his dinner, he decides to do some research. Unfortunately, his room is not a hotspot so Wi-Fi is not an option. Not a problem at all. He fishes out his wireless access card and SIM card, inserts it in his notebook and suddenly he's got wireless broadband Internet. Wireless broadband mobility solution is made possible through GPRS and EDGE. In other words, as long as there's cell phone coverage, Kevin is assured of connectivity on the move with up to 170Kbps (kilobytes per second) in speed. This means connectivity beyond the office, on the road and even out of the country. Like a phone subscription, you get charged monthly for connectivity without boundaries. PLDT's WeRoam Mobile charges an initial fee of P2,500 and a monthly subscription fee of P2,000.

The quiet hum of his laptop while connecting slowly rocks our tech-savvy hero to sleep. He dreams of digging his toes on white beach sand while sipping a margarita. It's a perfect picture as his shoulders burn happily under the sun and his notebook PC purrs blissfully on his lap.

(E-mail feedback to candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

'Where should I invest my millions?'

From page 8★

his employer. A self-employed person risks losing his business if he does not please his customers. A businessman risks losing profits, including his capital, if he is not competitive. An investor risks losing his money if he invests in the wrong vehicle.

As Kiyosaki points out, the real risk in anything you do consists in not having the right attitude, knowledge and skills to succeed in whatever undertaking you choose. It is absolutely risky to invest if you do not know how to invest. Risks can generally be reduced or totally avoided. This is something that can be learned.

Financial literacy

There are a number of investment vehicles to choose from. There are always opportunities waiting to be tapped by people who know what to do with them. Some people just allow opportunities pass their way and do nothing about it because they do not know what to do with them.

I asked a lot of people why they do not have investments. The usual answer is that they do not have money to invest. You will be surprised to hear this common answer from people who have a six-digit monthly income. I guess most of us Filipinos have never been educated on investing. In fact, schools never teach enough financial literacy, if at all. Most schools program Filipinos to be employees or professionals who can at best be self-employed. It is not surprising that while some taipans did not finish their education, they still became billionaires. Personally, I have nothing against schools —provided they do not interfere with education.

That is why I tried to learn and experience financial literacy, enough to be able to teach this to people who are interested to learn and be financially independent. You will be surprised that many of my client companies have asked me for this type of training for their employees, especially those who cannot make both ends meet. (If interested, e-mail me for information on this.)

I guess there is no sense in enumerating the possible investment vehicles that our two letter writers can choose from. I suggest that before they even begin to choose from an array of available investment vehicles, they must first start with the basic lessons in financial literacy. (There are several books on this topic written by Kiyosaki, Colayco and Gamboa.) Another way to have a crash course is to engage the services of professional financial advisers. In choosing, don't be dazzled by Ph.Ds—I have friends who are doctors in Business Administration who have never had any business at all.

In closing, let me thank the two letter writers for being models and heroes of our country. If not for over $10 billion in collective annual remittances from OFWs, I'd be more scared to imagine the kind of Philippine economy we would have. May your tribe increase, and may your wealth increase through proper investing!

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

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We hope to see you all again next year!

Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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Text us your feedback: Inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Prudence in speech makes a happy workplace

By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

BEST Attitudes

IN OUR EVERYDAY WORK, FAMILIAR surroundings make it easy for us to sometimes say things that sound harmless but which can really be damaging in the long run.

1 Have you ever caught yourself making careless remarks (which we even think are witty at times) only to find out later that they have been misinterpreted by our coworkers or superiors? Didn't you feel bad afterwards and wish you'd been more careful?

2 We know that we as workers are expected to behave properly at work, to speak like considerate and civilized people guided by the Golden Rule. But still we make mistakes. Why?

3 Many reasons lead us to be imprudent in our speech at the workplace. One of them is familiarity—when we feel so at home with our coworkers, we also feel too free to say anything we want to.

4 Another is conceit—when we think the company needs us more than we need it, we tend to be too critical of it, complaining about even the pettiest things that displease us.

5 Another is the notion that many of our coworkers share our views; we are emboldened to speak, thinking our temerity will be widely supported.

6 Another reason may be, simply, habit—perhaps as a child we were so *matabil* or *sutil* and people applauded instead of correcting us.

7 If we care about our track record in our work life, let us not forget that whatever we say contributes towards the picture our coworkers and employers get to have of us.

8 Being careless with our remarks could harm us much more than it could others. For example, a casual comment we make about a company policy we don't agree with could be distorted and reach the ears of management whose confidence we may lose, in turn.

9 Exercising care in talking with coworkers fosters better human relations at the workplace. Let us remember this every time we are tempted to make a snide remark, a stinging comment, or even a loaded joke.

10 Careless words only bring us enemies. Prudence in speech is a sign of maturity and trustworthiness. When promotion time comes, employers look for mature and trustworthy candidates, so, take a hint!

'Where should I invest my millions?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Ernie Cecilia

I AM A 29-year-old engineer working in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. I am married for seven years now and have two kids. My family and I are planning to migrate to Canada. To qualify, I had to sell an idle lot that we own in the Philippines. I have two other lots that I am planning to sell, but right now I have P1 million that I was able to save from my earnings in Jeddah.

I want to be sure that when the time comes that I need to pay for good education for my children, I will have the money. I am not sure if it is still safe to buy preneed plans in the Philippines.

Can you please advise me what to do with my idle lots and funds? Shall I put them in T-bills or time deposit? What other investment options can you suggest?

Confused OFW

Last week, I received practically similar e-mails from two OFWs (overseas Filipino workers). The shorter mail is printed above, while the other comes from a 37-year-old Filipino (RRR) who is working in the United States, childless, has P7 million pesos now, wants to retire in five years, and wishes to maintain a P50,000-monthly lifestyle. They are similar in that both letter writers want suggestions on where to invest their money.

My first reaction to both letters is this: investing is a very personal matter. As pointed out by Robert Kiyosaki in one of his many books, the first thing to do when investing one's money is to have a plan—in fact, a personal plan.

Factors to consider

The mode of investment you will choose must depend on many things—not just on the return on your investments. If you ask my own personal preference, I will tell you that I feel comfortable investing in my own business and in other high-yield, although not so "safe," investment vehicles. Truly, the safer the investment, the lower the yield. Some very safe investments may even give you returns after tax that are not enough to cope with inflation.

Different types of investors seek different things. Some look for safe investments. Others look for "problematic" investments that they can tailor fit to their needs and style. Still others just have the money and don't know anything at all about investments.

The safe investor usually gets a low return. The problem-oriented and more adventurous investor usually gets high yields if he succeeds or gets blown into smithereens if the investment fails. The last type usually asks his friends or neighbors who have had no investment experience, hesitates to invest and loses the opportunity to earn, or invests in the wrong vehicle or at the wrong time and, therefore, loses just the same.

So, what kind of investor are you? How educated are you as an investor? What investment books or journals do you read? What investment vehicles are you familiar with? Have you invested in the past? Do you have a professional investment counselor, mentor or consultant? Does your investment counselor know enough of you to personalize his investment advice for you? What do you plan to do with your life? What are your financial goals? How do you take risks?

Risk in investments

As I always say, there is risk everywhere, whether you are an employee, a self-employed person, a businessman, or an investor. An employee risks losing his job if he does not contribute value to

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Working Wounded p.6★

A day in the life of a tech-savvy professional continues p.7★

A steadfast friendship

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

NOT MANY PEOPLE SEE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN one's work and making God Number One in one's life, but believe me, there is. And if one makes that connection the foundation of one's thoughts and deeds in the workplace, immense job satisfaction is definitely assured.

We do not see the love of God as useful in one's occupation because we are prejudiced and afraid; we draw a line between God and work until we interchange the two—we make work our god, and we think God is only boring work. Result? We're lost before we know it. Then, we blame God for not giving us the work we want.

There's nothing really that daunting about getting God into the workplace. God is friendly: worker-friendly, poor-friendly, sick-friendly, sinner-friendly, etc. See how many stories there are in the Bible that prove this friendliness of God towards us? It's there, God's friendship, free for us to use to our favor! We only need to allow—repeat, allow—that friendship to touch us for the brave new world of work to open before our very eyes! That word "allow"—that alone shows us what a friend we have in God. Imagine God Almighty, waiting for us poor, sinful, neurotic workers, to "allow" Him to favor us with His wondrous cooperation! By this He leaves in our hands the switch we can turn on to transform our workplace!

Befriending God means loving Him with all our being, trusting Him above all else. Instead of merely relying on human friends and efforts to find job satisfaction, we can count on God's steadfast friendship. In return, He guides us and blesses us with greater opportunities for abundance, happiness, peace, and fulfillment. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Gospel: Matthew 22: 34-40

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with allyour mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment."

God's greatest command

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB

SOME APPLICANTS FOR WORK ARE SOMETIMES REminded of the saying, "it is not what you know but whom you know that is more important in getting a job and staying at it." But those who present themselves for work without the appropriate knowledge and skill requirements for the applied position would certainly find the statement untrue, especially if they aspire to work in great and respectable companies.

I do not agree completely with this statement even if it has worked for some. I would also not advise young workers to rely on their "contacts" to get jobs or stay secure in their work by maintaining the relationship with such persons at all cost and by all means including improper or even immoral ones.

Sufficient preparation and a superior formation, more than assurances of the contacts, are surer guarantees for getting a job. Likewise, competence in one's job, having a higher motivation in work and a wholehearted dedication to it, is more crucial for job security and satisfaction than just mere reliance on the favors of the patron of one's job.

I see a little angle of the statement above which attracts my reflection regarding the "personal" aspect of our world of work which somehow completes and perfects our striving for excellence in work. If the "whom you know" refers to God, whom we try to know and love "with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind" as we do our work, making our work as our fulfillment of God's greatest commandment of love, then you and I will surely agree with the principle cited above. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2005
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  - Submission of SSS and Philhealth quarterly reports and annual report to BIR on taxes withheld and paid by Oxfam
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  - Responsible for keeping the office updated on development and changes in regulations of such agencies

Finance

- Manage the Cotabato Finance and maintain systems of payments, authorization, banking, coding, cashflow, monthly accounts and reconciliation.
- Ensure that Oxfam financial policies and procedures are followed by the Programme
- Ensure system links between logistics and finance and to implement appropriate policies and procedures in line with Oxfam standards and Donor requirements
- Ensure proper documentation and authorization in the procurement and distribution of goods and that stock records are maintained and managed for goods held in the warehouse.
- Responsible for the accomplishment of accurate monthly Imprest and donor reports.
- Responsible for the production of budget monitors to ensure that Management Committee is regularly informed of the programme spending levels
- Ensure efficient management of programme assets and that Assets Register is maintained
- Manage the preparation for programme audits

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- Ensure implementation of effective administration and information technology systems in line with Oxfam policies and procedures
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- Ensure proper management of radio communications systems
- Responsible for the induction of new staff on office systems and procedures

Core Competencies:

- Conceptual, critical and analytical thinking
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- Adaptable and flexible

Essential Specifications

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The post is for a six (6) months assignment. Interested applicants should submit their application letter with complete CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A Malumanay Street
Teacher's Village
Diliman, Quezon City 1101
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- Work in close collaboration with other teams i.e public health and protection/conflict reduction to ensure an integrated approach to the rehabilitation needs of the population.
- Monitor programme indicators including assessment of the project's impact on women
- Facilitate community planning meetings on collective ownership and management of agricultural or fishing tools to be provided to communities
- Facilitate distribution of material inputs (e.g seeds, agricultural and fishing tools) where required and within project design ensuring participation of the beneficiaries in the process
- Liaise with grassroot institutions/organization to get relevant information (i.e government programs and services on agriculture and fishing) and also share relevant approved external reports from Oxfam.
- Ensure the adherence consistency of the programme to SPHERE, gender and other standards in humanitarian response.
- Produce monthly reports

Core Competencies:

- Good understanding of development work in Mindanao
- Initiative and drive to achieve results
- Ability to work effectively with others
- Adaptable and flexible

Essential Specifications

- A post secondary school qualification in the field of agriculture with knowledge and experience on diversified and organic farming
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3D & manual renderer / drafter

to join our team

REQUIREMENT: **Proficient in AutoCAD; modelling & graphic/rendering software. Experienced in manual rendering / Proficient in written & spoken English**
Specialization : **Architect / Interior Design**
Gender: Any
Educational Attainment: College Degree
Minimum of three (3) years work experience

E-mail your resumé and a sample of your work to:
patricia@garywang.com

JOB Market www.jobmarketonline.com

EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION

Is in immediate need of

one (1) Accounting Staff

Qualifications:
- Male/Female
- Under 25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting, preferably with experience
- Fluent in English (preferably Mandarin speaking)
- With pleasing personality, independent and aggressive
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Resides in Manila, Makati, Alabang, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Quezon City.

Please send your resumé on or before October 28, 2005.

Personnel Department
EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION
23rd Floor, LKG Tower
6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City

TOA Corporation is in urgent need of the following:
(For Olongapo/Zambales/Bataan residents and applicants willing to be relocated)

FIELD (CIVIL/BUILDING) ENGINEERING

- Male, 25-45 years old
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel)
- Fluent in English (Oral and Written)
- With Driver's License

OFFICE (CIVIL/BUILDING) ENGINEER

- Male/Female, 25-45 years old
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel)
- Knowledgeable in Auto-CADD
- Fluent in English (Oral and written)
- With Driver's License

Applications must be sent to:

Marivic I. Esquibel
Administrative Officer
TOA Corporation-Subic Site Office
PST-JV Complex, Boton Wharf, Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222
Fax No. (047) 252-2755

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architect planner *For development & realty company*

- BS Architecture Graduate
- Knowledge of Urban-Planning Principles & Concepts
- Familiarity with Geodetic Engineering
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) Proficiency
- Good Drawing & Rendering Skills
- Proficient in MS-Windows, Word, Excel, PwrPoint
- Familiarity (preferably) with Adobe Photoshop
- No experience required–fresh graduates encouraged to apply
- Significance placed on impressive academic achievement plus innovative conceptual & technical-planning skills evident in personal portfolio, projects, or presentations
- Makati work-base and must be willing to visit out-of-town projects on supervision or inspection assignments

SEND APPLICATIONS TO: PO BOX 2313 MAKATI COMMERCIAL CENTER

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Pre-School Teachers, PTs & Professionals

Join our orientation-consultation on Oct. 29, Nov. 5, & 12, 2005 @ 2pm and find out how you can be 1 of our Successful Qualified Clients Working now in the USA!
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TRAVELLERS LINK INTERNATIONAL CO.
Affiliate of US Immigration Law Firm, Falls Church, Virginia, USA.

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The Department of Surgery of Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (formerly Polymedic General Hospital) is now accepting applications to its 5-Year Residency Training Program (fully accredited by the Philippine College of Surgeons).

For inquiries please call 5314911 loc. 321 or 5321866 and look for any surgical resident

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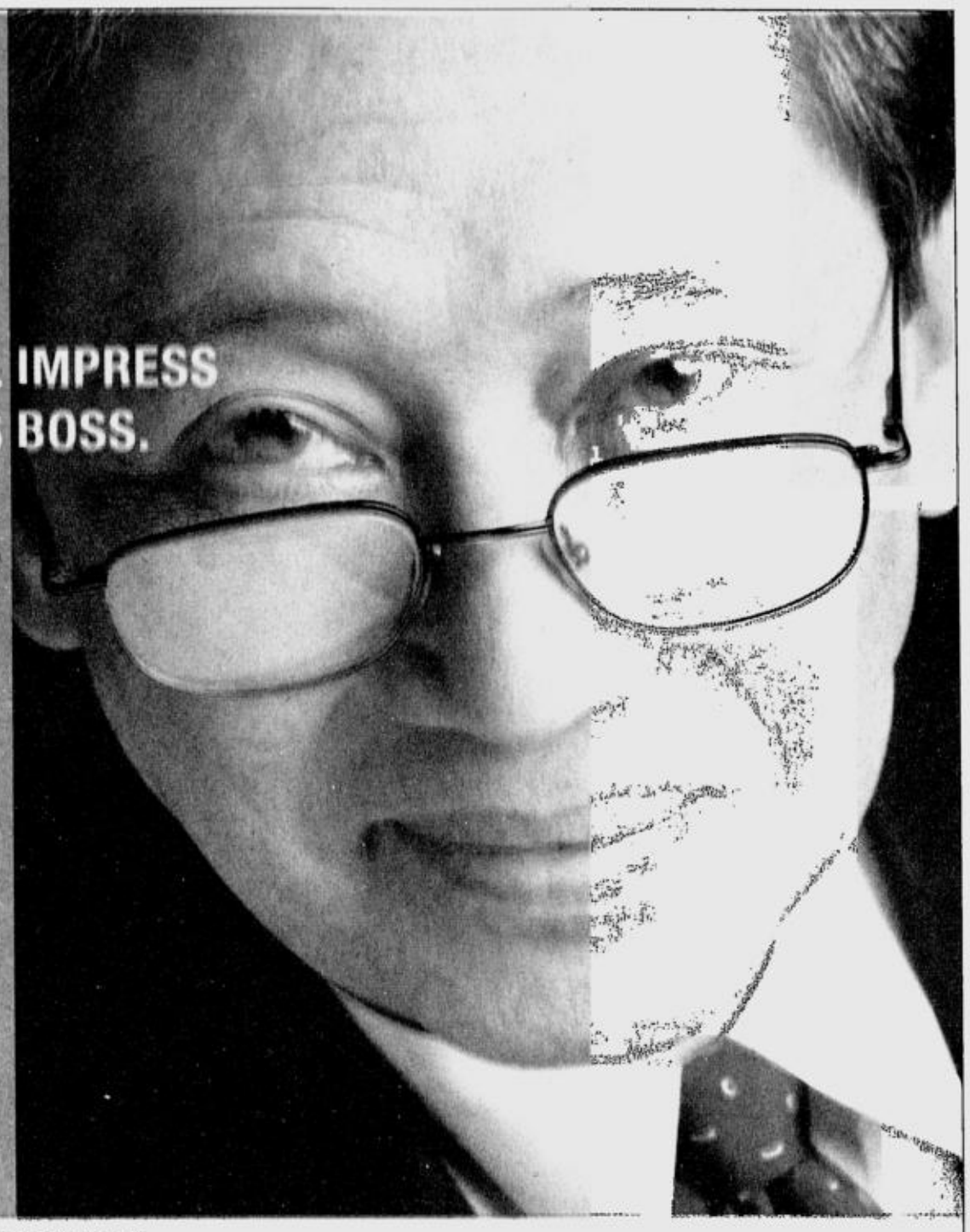

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- Security & Policies Manager
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IBM Daksh Recruitment Center 17/F Equitable PCI Tower Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City	Mondays to Fridays 9 AM - 8 PM Saturdays 9 AM - 6 PM
Job World Roadshow Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Entertainment Center, Basement, Phase III	October 24 - 25, 2005 10 AM - 6 PM
Malate Church Job Fair Malate, Manila	November 5, 2005 7 AM - 12 NN

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

Administrative-cum-Finance Associate for the UNFPA Philippines Country Office

Under the direct supervision of the Country Representative, the Administrative-cum-Finance Associate will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Adapt processes and procedures, anticipate and manage operational requirements of programme/project inputs under national execution in terms of personnel, sub-contracts, equipment, fellowships, study tours and other programme and project-related events to facilitate programme/project delivery;
2. Prepare and monitor the administrative and program budgets and ensure financial transactions are in accordance with UNFPA financial rules and procedures. Propose procedures to improve internal controls and efficiency and respond to audit issues;
3. Manage the recruitment and selection process, applying best practice Human Resource tools and mechanisms, advise and brief managers and project personnel on different types of contract modalities, HR policies and benefits, coordinates the Performance Appraisal and Development Process and advise on performance issues;
4. Implement corporate systems and applications in support of Finance and Human Resource management and Country Office operations; creates systems and mechanisms for effective management of UNFPA resources required for national execution (NEX) and advises and trains project staff in NEX procedures and maintains continuous and accurate/updated flow of information between the Country Office and Headquarters;
5. Review procurement requests and initiate procurement procedures for office and project equipment, supplies and services in a transparent and cost-effective manner; recommend procurement decisions. Contribute to the smooth running of the office by ensuring the provision and maintenance of service and supplies follow-up processes and maintaining up-to-date inventory and records and recommending disposal action on unserviceable/excess equipment;
6. Review and prepare material for common system activities in relation Common Services and Premises, cost recovery, privileges and immunities, entitlements and salary surveys, security, etc. and represent UNFPA in related inter-agency meetings and working groups in the absence of the Representative;
7. Support the monitoring of programme financial performance for all core and non-core resources by providing necessary financial information and analysis, including implementation rate against indicators/results. Detect potential over/under expenditure problems and suggest remedial actions;
8. Develop tools and mechanisms for effective and efficient monitoring of programme and project budgets, coordinate compilation of financial data and provide accurate and updated financial information to Headquarters on a continuous basis;
9. Interpret financial policies and procedures, particularly relating to NEX and provide guidance and training to staff and project managers. Strive to identify ways in which programme financial needs can be met within existing policies;
10. Assist in the management of the Country Office by budget formulation, controlling allotments, monitoring expenditures, and preparing revisions according to the needs of the office;
11. Review and monitor changes for common services and cost recovery, taking into account maximum cost efficiency and represent UNFPA's interest in related negotiations and agreements;
12. Perform other related duties as may be required.

Essential Specifications and Core Competencies:
Minimum academic degree: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration/Commerce, Accountancy, Finance or related field. Ten years of more of relevant experience in accounting, administration and Human Resources in the public or private sector. Should have excellent communication, analytical, facilitating and inter-personal skills. Proficiency in wordprocessing, spreadsheets and other current office software application. Knowledge in PeopleSoft will be an advantage. Acts in accordance with United Nations values and demonstrate personal commitment to organization's mandate and vision. Takes personal responsibility for personal learning and career development. Works collaboratively with colleagues inside and outside of the organization. Must have strong conflict and self-management skills. Willing to travel to UNFPA project areas in the Philippines.

Applicants are requested to send application letter indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Form (P.11) available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

or through email: officemail@unfpa.org.ph
Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications
Deadline for submission of applications: 4 November 2005
UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer.

Send your resumé instantly. JOB Market www.jobmarketonline.com

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"Regional Newspaper of the Year"
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Cebu's fastest-growing newspaper is looking for

SENIOR EDITOR

- 5 years experience in a news organization
- Above-average command of written English
- Supervisory and leadership skills
- High sense of public service
- Possesses an independent mind
- Strong competitive drive
- Open to innovation
- Works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- College graduate
- Cebu resident

COPY EDITOR

- above average command of written English
- a love for the written word and an appetite for current events and news
- high initiative and an analytical mind
- at least 3 years editing experience in a news organization
- works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- computer skills: MS word and new programs to be taught
- college graduate
- Cebu resident
- Campus journalism experience is an advantage

SPORTS COPY EDITOR

- at least 3 years experience in sports writing and editing
- above average mastery of written English
- understands the dynamics of a wide range of sports
- page layout skills are an advantage
- works well on daily deadlines
- available for night work

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR

- College graduate
- Must possess a high level of initiative, good time management skills, and organized work habits
- An attitude of public service is essential
- Can handle multiple office tasks within short deadlines and work well under pressure
- Basic office computer tasks: MSWord, Excel, email
- Proven track record of honesty in handling office finance responsibilities
- Can adapt to the demands of a busy newsroom environment and work well with reporters and editors

Please send an application letter, resumé and references to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St. Cebu City
Email : fcanoy@fep.ph ; ailumin@fep.ph ; aoasan@fep.ph

Actual Testimonial

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Whoever says this job is a no-brainer can take that judgment back. PeopleSupport conducts training at least once every month! I've got under my belt the trade tricks in selling and the knowledge on customer care and computer technology.

Not only that, HR regularly gives feedback and works on details to improve the relationships among its employees. Other companies might bribe you in numerous ways but you'll never get the best unless you work with PeopleSupport.

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For corporate openings, email resume to manilajobs@peoplesupport.com. Indicate position on the subject line.

Ways to apply:

Visit our office and be interviewed right away

PeopleSupport Center
Ayala cor Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Call our HR Hotline: **(02) 755-2600**
Apply online through our website or email your resume

We are inviting applicants to join our team and fill in the following positions:

Market Research Assistant

- Male/Female – between 24-30 yrs old
- Bachelor's degree in Business Management or Marketing preferable from reputable school
- At least 2 years work experience preferably in the field of market research
- Above average oral and written communication skills
- Resourceful and creative
- With pleasing personality
- A team player, people oriented and with high sense of urgency and initiative
- Proficient in Microsoft applications

Policy Benefits Administration Supervisor

- Male/Female – between 25-30 yrs old
- College degree holder; BS Mathematics/Statistics with concentration in actuarial science will be an advantage
- At least two (2) years work experience in handling policy service and policy benefits administration
- Excellent both in oral and written communication skills
- Self starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision
- Must be customer service-oriented and with excellent inter-personnel skills
- Computer literate

Corporate Communications Specialist

- Male/Female – between 22-26 yrs old
- College Graduate of any 4 year business /arts course
- Excellent both in oral and written communication skills
- Must be customer service-oriented and with excellent inter-personnel skills
- Self starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision
- Proficient in Powerpoint/Adobe Pagemaker/Photoshop/Flash or any publishing software

New Business Underwriting

- Male/Female – between 22-25 yrs old
- College Graduate with a degree in Business Administration
- Preferably with Business Insurance Background
- Excellent both in oral and written communication skills
- Self starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision
- Must be customer service-oriented and with excellent inter-personnel skills
- Computer literate

Account Officer

- Between 25 – 35 years old
- College graduate with a degree in Marketing, Business Administration or any equivalent 4-year course.
- Preferably with Group Insurance experience, both in sales and administration.
- Excellent communication skills, self-starter, resourceful, team player and able to work with minimum supervision.
- Must be customer service-oriented and with excellent inter-personnel skills
- Minimum 1-year driving experience.
- Proficient in Windows/MS Office

We offer an attractive Salary and competitive benefits package to the selected candidates. Interested applicants may submit thru fax or email or may hand carry their resume with one (1) recent colored picture not later than October 30, 2005 at:

NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
21ST F Tower 2 RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue
cor. Gil Puyat Avenue Makati City Fax No. 7532161
E-mail: p.regio@nipponlife-phil.com.ph

Systems Support Officer

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for providing high level technical support and assistance to the Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) in the implementation and management of the Human Resource Management System (HRMS)/Training/Payroll Modules, including website development, HR Online and related database systems; ensuring that the systems and procedures, management and utilization of human resource information are in accordance with the Information Systems and Technology strategies and standards of ADB and meet the needs and requirements of Management and users. This is the key position for information systems-related work in BPMSD, though the position is organizationally located in the Human Resources Division (BPHR). Specific responsibilities include:

Systems Development and Implementation

- Acting as the functional lead position for system development definition and approval of automation project plans (PC-based, hardware, servers), monitoring progress, tracking issues, and results; preparing corresponding progress/completion reports.
- Conducting or coordinating user requirement analysis, functional specifications and implementation plans in consultation with Office of Information Systems Technology (OIST)/contractors. This covers Oracle HRMS modules (Core HR, Training, etc.) set-ups, Self Service, workflow, alerts, payroll fast formula, Discoverer reporting tool, custom forms, etc.
- Conducting or coordinating the overall testing of the features and facilities of automated systems prototypes and providing feedback on the changes, corrections and enhancements on the panels, screens, options, tables, and validation features that are required
- Coordinating with OIST for the work/results for development and/or maintenance of systems used by BPMSD.
- Ensuring that the website development, HR Online and related information systems and technology undertakings of BPMSD are well-designed, properly linked or integrated and are within the acceptable standards.

Database Security, Control and Coordination

- Evaluating requests for Oracle HRMS and Personnel Management Information Systems (PMIS) access
- Recommending grant of password, appropriate authority (update, delete, download, view, add) and levels of access in the database.
- Reviewing/preparing the manual of policies and procedures related to the system (access, contents, utilization, inquiries, use, etc.) and ensuring proper observance and implementation.
- Reviewing and preparing Oracle Tutor (procedures and systems) documentation for BPHR's processes and set-up.
- Overseeing updates of Tutor documentation for other departments/divisions utilizing Oracle applications.
- Acting/responding to suggestions or complaints regarding the system or coordinates requested actions.

Analysis and Evaluation

- Providing assistance in evaluating the adequacy of automated activities in terms of quality and efficiency and interfaces with other databases, and suggesting options for further improving productivity and performance.
- Reviewing proposals for automation from external consultants and/or concerned offices/departments by comparing against set objectives and expected results and submitting findings and recommendations.
- Evaluating impact of system upgrades, development, and suggested workarounds to customized requirements and functionalities.

Statistics/Data Retrieval/Information Reports

- Supervising distribution of all regular and defined reports from the system and in coordinating ad hoc report requests
- Providing assistance and support in the collection of statistics/information, in designing and producing various human resources related reports, listings and summaries on a regular and/or ad hoc basis, and in downloading requests/requirements using Oracle Discoverer or legacy systems.

Technical/Administrative Support

- Providing technical and administrative support to specialized areas of BPHR, for example, by reviewing/updating automated HR processes and procedures, HR/Training data clean-up, system trouble shooting, etc.
- Assisting in completion of special projects/assignments.

Others

- Overseeing the design, development and enhancements for the HR Hotline and related web-based activities.
- Participating in the ADB business continuity planning and/or disaster recovery activities, as required.
- Participating in review and development of system requirements of the new HR Strategy.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Head, Policy and Recruitment Planning Unit, BPHR.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in computer engineering, industrial engineering, or with major in management, public or business administration or accounting;
- At least five years work experience in same job stream with exposure in managing a team. Experience in preparing draft write-up on system operational procedures, and/or user manuals.
- Understanding of multilateral organizations' information technology strategies and standards and its human resources policies and procedures; and
- Knowledge and proficiency in project management, relevant office technology applications and personnel database systems necessary to the human resources services. Knowledge of Oracle HRMS database and experience in Oracle Discoverer and administration.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-NOO5-176(4)-BPHR and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 7 November 2005.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank ADB

Johnield Construction and Development Corp.
Urgently Needs

HR Personnel	Marketing Associate
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Gemma Libano or
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- proficient in MS Office softwares
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San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City 1105
or fax to 373-12-26 or email to: baby_estelita@yahoo.com
babyball@i-manila.com.ph

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*Part Time Positions are also available for Customer Support

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- MIS Manager
- Business Manager
- Operations Manager
- Training and Quality Manager

OPERATIONS
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- Technical Support Agents
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SUPPORT GROUP
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- Recruitment Assistant
- Student-Trainees
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INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY FORWARD THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ WITH 2X2 COLORED ID PICTURE, A COPY OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS, NBI/ POLICE CLEARANCE AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO:

ONE PHILIPPINE SILVER CORPORATION

#33 DON DOROTEO ST., DON ENRIQUE HEIGHTS, BRGY. HOLY SPIRIT, COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, QUEZON CITY

OR TO ANY **FILIGRENASIA** OR **GAEACRAFTS** OUTLET NATIONWIDE.

URGENT

We are a scholarship company whose clients are U.S. universities and hospitals. We are in need of dynamic and dedicated personnel for our expansion. Our company offers very competitive salaries and benefits

PROGRAM INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Qualifications: A graduate of a business course or nursing course from a reputable school; with excellent communication skills both in oral and written English; with extensive experience in marketing; with strong background in networking with schools or hospitals and healthcare organizations; Proficient technology skills using MS Office; highly organized, result-oriented and flexible; medical representatives with strong personality are welcome to apply.

PROCESSING DIRECTOR

Qualifications: College graduate; with excellent communication skills both in oral and written English; with experience working in a scholarship/education company; keen to details; flexible, mature and result-oriented. Only qualified candidates will be considered.

PROCESSING ASSISTANT

Qualifications: college graduate from a reputable school; preferably with experience/knowledge in database management; with good communication skills; with at least 1 year work experience; dependable and flexible. No experience on database need not apply.

RECEPTIONIST

Qualifications: College graduate, female, with good communication skills, with 1 year work experience as receptionist.

The company prefers candidates who are willing to work under pressure and with minimum supervision.

Applicants may mail or bring their resumé and transcript to Unit 1803-1805 Taipan Place, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City on or before October 27, 2005 or email to gsa.applicants@globalscholarship.org

Previous applicants need not apply.

BIG TOP

a fully equipped digital production and post-production facility is in need of...

POST PRODUCTION MANAGER/ COORDINATOR

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Coordination within Post-Production Department
- Tasks responsibilities and tracks progress of team members
- Management of project timetables
- Support and motivate team members
- Organize and systematize materials and equipment
- Comprehends project briefs and is capable of identifying script requirements
- Communicates project and script requirements to members of Production and Post Production
- Serves as initial level of quality control
- Coordination with other departments (i.e. Accounts and Production)

Requirements:

- Familiar with Non-linear, Motion Graphics and Graphic Design software
- Familiar with the Production Process
- Organized
- A team player
- Added advantages:
  - At least 1-2 years work experience (free-lance or full-time employed)
  - Has worked on both PC and Mac Platforms
  - Has used Final Cut Pro, After Effects, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator

Additional Hiring Information:

- Experienced and Technically competent applicants will be considered for Post-Production Manager Position
- Competent applicants who are eager to be more technically proficient will be considered for Post-Production Coordinator Position

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- Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business or secretarial course
- Preferably w/ secretarial experience
- Can speak and write good English
- Willing to work on an 8-10 hour basis
- Preferably living w/in Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong City, Quezon City & Pasay City

Submit Bio-data w/ Photo to:

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EDSA, Quezon City or
Email: bsp@prudentialife.com

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- Willing to work extended hours
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
- Experienced in Sales and Promotions as Medical Representative is preferable but not necessary
- A graduate of a 4-year course (preferably in an allied medical course)

Then you are the right person we are looking for.

WE OFFER...

- Competitive salary
- Per Diem and Transportation Allowance
- Generous commission
- Cell Phone Allowance
- Year End extra months pay
- Housing allowance (if relocated)

HUMAN RESOURCES/ACCOUNTING CLERK

IF YOU ARE...

- Detail-oriented (has an eye for detail)
- Self-driven, self-motivated
- Organized
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Can relate with different types and levels of people
- Graduate of any business-related course (preferably with accounting degree)
- Experience is an advantage but not necessary
- Not more than 30 years old
- Knowledge in computer (power point, word, excel)

Please submit a comprehensive resumé, detailing scope of work, pay history with recent colored 2x2 picture on or before November 2, 2005 to:

26-B 26th Floor, Chatam House Condominium
Corner V. A. Rufino & Valerio Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Or Email to proselmanila@pldtdsl.net

INTERVIEW STARTS ON NOVEMBER 2, 2005

fourthrock INFORMATION SOLUTIONS

24-E Summit One Tower
530 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City 1552
Tel no. +632-5349249
Fax no. +632-7170605

Fourth Rock, Inc. a group of young, dynamic and hard-working IT professionals invites the following to join its enterprising team:

WEB APPLICATION DEVELOPERS

- Responsible for systems design, technical specification development, programming and testing of different web applications
- At least two (2) years experience in programming web and business applications, at least one (1) year of which must involve systems analysis and design
- Qualifications include:
  - Intensive experience in these programming tools: Java/ J2EE, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, XML/XSLT
  - Proficiency in databases: MSSQL, MySQL
  - Knowledge of Flash and image editors (JPG, GIF, PNG) is an advantage

Qualified applicants must submit their latest comprehensive résumé with attached photo by email to **apply@fourthrock.ph**

ELEMAX NETWORK CONSULTANCY, INC

URGENTLY NEEDS personnel to fill in the following positions to be assigned in Makati, Cavite and Laguna area.

- Implementation Specialists (Systems Operator) - graduate of any Computer course, willing to travel
- Programmers - complete knowledge of Visual C/C++, CPU Programming, Embedded Development, with at least 2 years work experience
- Database Programmer - with complete knowledge of VB 6.0~ and SQL Server; knowledgeable with RDBMS, proper concepts on tables and database designs and methodologies, at least 2 years working experience
- Network Specialists/Engineer - complete knowledge of Router (Cisco), TCP/IP, Internet connection, DNS, SMTP, and with Linux experience.
- Liaison Officer - trustworthy and adept in documentation
- Admin Personnel - with at least 2 years experience handling Admin/HR matters
- Accounting Personnel - Accounting graduate from a reputable school or being a CPA is an advantage

Drop resumé with 2x2 picture at Unit 1507 or 1510 Medical Plaza Makati Bldg., Amorsolo corner Dela Rosa Sts., Makati City.(At the back of Makati Med) or send it thru email at info@elemax.net (Pls. indicate the position you are applying for and preferred work area.)

Only qualified applicants will be notified of an interview schedule.

JOB Market www.jobmarketonline.com

SH SHING HUNG PLASTICS CO., INC.

QA ENGINEER

- Male/Female; 24 – 30 years old Graduate of any Engineering course; at least w/ 2 – 3 years experience in QA for Plastic injection; knowledge in handling of mechanical instrument (measurement equipment control)

MOLD TECHNICIAN

- male; must have 2 – 3 years experience; can operate set up the machine; milling machine; EDM, wire cutting, high speed CNC
- female/male; design (programming Pro-e); Finishing & Polishing

INJECTION TECHNICIAN

- male; 24 – 30 years old; at least 2 – 3 years experience; must be hands on Plastic Injection machine; operation & troubleshooting

Please submit your resumé/bio-data at:
SHING HUNG PLASTICS CO., INC.
Lot 8 Ph. 1 FPIP, Sta. Anastacia,
Sto. Tomas, Batangas
Attention to Ms. Agnes & Jane
e-mail: personnel@shinghung.com.ph

A well-established security agency operating nationwide needs:

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

- Male/Female, at least 30 years old;
- Computer literate
- Preferably with 2 years experience in supervisory level;
- Well versed in all aspects of accounting documents, methods and procedures;
- Must have extensive knowledge in general accounting, payroll, SSS, Pag-ibig and other government agencies requirements;
- Highly analytical and can work well under pressure.

Qualified applicants may apply in person or in writing with recent photo and desired salary to:

CATALINA SECURITY AGENCY
626 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
or
To: The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 1295, Manila

3D Animators

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P35,000 to P50,000 salary per month (depending on talent and experience)

Our studio is seeking animators to create animation for diverse international projects and markets.

If you have mastered the mechanics of animation, have attention to detail and a track record of 2-3 yrs. employment in 3D animation, please send resumés and demo materials to:

ani_prod@yahoo.com.ph
ani(underscore)prod(at)yahoo(dot)com(dot)ph

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SUMMIT TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a company located in Ortigas, Pasig City, is in need of the following positions for immediate hiring

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS
- Graduate of any medical allied course
- With at least 1 year experience in medical transcription
- Willing to work fulltime and in rotating shifts
- Team oriented and with good work attitude

MEDICAL EDITORS
- Graduate of any medical allied course
- With at least 1 year experience in medical editor
- Willing to work fulltime and in rotating shifts
- Must have an above average command of the English

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science courses
- With at least 1-2 years experience in field of HR
- Adept in all facets of HR functions
- With strong human relations skills and can work well with all levels in the organization
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office applications

Please email your resumé at hrd@summit-ml.com or call 6314056 for more information

SPARK FILMS

A young, dynamic & award-winning film production team is looking for:

ACCOUNTANT

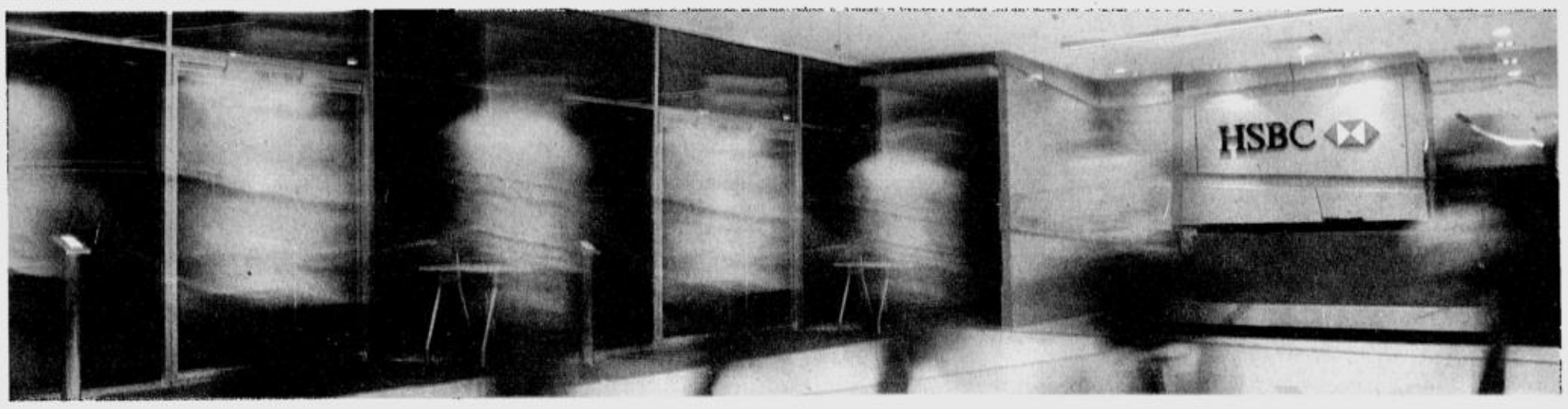
CPA w/ experience in working w/ ad agency or production companies

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Experience with film, advertising or art management a plus; minimum 2nd year college; male/female; fluent in English; computer literate.

Send resumé to:

mellymelly@yahoo.com or
28 B. Padilla St., cor. Maclang,
San Juan 1500



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If you're highly motivated and intent on pursuing a career in one of the fastest growing industries, come join our now and still expanding team.

We are accepting applications for the following positions

- Customer Care and Sales Associates
- Spanish-speaking Care Associates and Team Leaders
- Collections Associates
- Workforce Analysts
- Managers for Operations

We welcome

- Fresh graduates
- Customer service staff looking for a new and exciting career
- Experienced call center agents
- Those looking for a challenging job with attractive prospects and rewards

We require

- Excellent English language skills and an openness to working shifting schedules

You may apply via e-mail to **servicecenterjobs@hsbc.com.ph** or personally visit any one of our two sites (Alabang or Makati). We welcome you to our **Open House**, Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at our Alabang or Makati site for **one-day processing**. Get a job offer the same day.

Alabang site:
HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc.
5150 North Bridgeway corner Northgate Avenue
Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781

Makati site:
HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc.
39th Floor PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street
Makati City 1226

Note: Walk-in applicants must bring a copy of their resume, one 2x2 picture and photocopies of their last two payslips.
Photos show various facilities of our Alabang site.
HSBC is an equal opportunity employer.

At HSBC, we make your working time easier and your relaxation time more enjoyable with modern and state of the art facilities.

We have a monthly calendar of fun activities to ensure that it's not all work and no play. Come join the fun!

HSBC

MGS Corporation, one of the country's leading construction firm and supplier of ready mix concrete and premium home-building products, is in need of efficient, dynamic, and flexible applicants to fill-up the following positions:

LICENSED ENGINEERS
- ☐ Graduate of BS Civil or Mechanical Engineering
- ☐ Male, not more than 24 years old (for ME) and not more than 27 years old (for CE)
- ☐ Willing to stay on site and work on extended hours
- ☐ Previous work experience in a construction or real estate company is an advantage

ARCHITECT
- ☐ Male, preferably not more than 24 years old
- ☐ Graduate of BS Architecture
- ☐ Preferably with PRC License
- ☐ Adept in computer applications including AutoCAD

HUMAN RESOURCE STAFF
- ☐ Female, preferably not more than 24 years old
- ☐ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Human Resource Management or any Business course
- ☐ With excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- ☐ A minimum of 1 year work experience is an advantage

DATA ENCODER
- ☐ Male, preferably not more than 24 years old
- ☐ Graduate of any 2-year or 4-year course
- ☐ Adept in computer applications

Interested applicants may e-mail their resume and other credentials at hrd@mgs.com.ph or apply personally at **MGS CORPORATION** office - 2/F Las Piñas Business Center, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Talon, Las Piñas. Tel No. 8710741 to 42

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CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
for Inbound and Outbound

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Experience in a related job is an advantage
Open to working on a graveyard and shifting schedule
Excellent English communication skills
Has spent at least two years in college

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Mandarin speaking Customer Service Representatives
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Quality Assurance Specialists
Human Resources Associates
Registered Nurse
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Executive Assistant
Facilities Engineers (Licensed Electrical Engineers)
Customer Service Managers

Office address: 222-224 Nicanor Garcia Street Brgy. Sta. Cruz Makati City
Call: 898-7100 loc. 84000
E-mail: psi@parlance.com.ph
Microsite: www.parlancesystems.com
(application thru the microsite is for English-speaking CSRs only)

Walk-in applicants for CSR will be accommodated from 7:30 am-11:00 am. Kindly bring an updated resume with 2x2 ID picture and valid ID. Please come in business attire.
Applicants who are interested to e-mail their resume kindly put on the subject field the position you are applying for. No attachments please.

Hansol Ink-go 잉크지오

is in need of

Sales Executives / Office Secretary (Female)
Office Staff (Male)
- 21 - 40 yrs (Sales Executive)
- 22 - 28 yrs (Office Secretary)
- 25 - 35 yrs (Office Staff)

Common Requirements
- College graduate
- Fluent in English
- Honest, aggressive & hardworking
- Driver's License (Office staff ONLY)

Screening of documents (Resumé, NBI Clearance) can be sent thru Fax no. 899-1229 or E-mail: ink-go@hanmail.net
Look for Mr. Kwon
Juang Int'l Corp. tel. 890-8270
2F 5368 Sunlink Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Makati City
(near P. Burgos st. and Kalayaan st.)

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At APAC, we mean serious business when we talk about our people

Because we know that talented and committed people are the heart and soul of our organization.
Find out how we value them. Join us today.

...ervice ...sentatives for our Alabang Facility!

Qualifications:
- Graduate of a 4-year course preferably with customer service/sales experience
- PC literate with MS Office Products
- Can type at least 25 wpm
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Benefits:
- Highly competitive starting salaries
- Meal and transportation allowances
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Other Positions Available:
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Plaza C, Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa
Mondays thru Fridays, from 9 am to 6 pm
Or call us at: 7576500 or 7576567

Apply online: **recruitment@apacmail.com**
Or visit our website: **www.apaccustomerservices.com**

APAC Customer Services, Inc.

Senior Accounting Assistant

Responsibilities

The position undertakes a variety of specialized clerical accounting duties: carries out administrative functions, as required; maintains and updates accounting records; maintains sound accounting/internal controls; prepares accounting and other reports; and as relevant, contributes towards the preparation of financial statements. Specific responsibilities include

- contributing to the preparation of financial statements, accounting and other reports, as required under the supervision of a senior local staff, ensuring reported amounts are consistent with control accounts and that they are produced in a timely and accurate manner; ensuring that accounting reports are according to generally accepted accounting principles particularly in relation to investments, borrowings, and derivative transactions.
- reviewing and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation; ensuring the accuracy and reliability of systems; initiating changes to existing systems and coordinating the needs of the work area with Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) through the coordinating officer in charge.
- maintaining and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions and preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements to ensure that correct, complete, and timely accounting records are maintained.
- preparing reconciliation of control and other accounts; undertaking initial investigation of discrepancies for review by supervising staff.
- preparing and posting accurate accounting journal entries in the system; reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency, validity, and completeness of supporting documents for all transactions to ensure compliance with accounting practices and established procedures and guidelines.
- coordinating and providing required information in a tactful manner and according to established procedures
- performing any other assignments as required, including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Financial Control Specialist, Investments, Borrowings, and Bank Reconciliation Section (CTAC-IBR), Controller's Department (CTL).

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a bachelor degree in business administration, major in accounting; a CPA qualification.
- at least five years experience in accounting in a computerized environment of a large organization with exposure to international capital markets.
- good understanding of international fixed income capital markets and products, including fixed income derivative products.
- good understanding of US accounting standards related to fixed income securities and derivative products and general accounting concepts and principles and their application.
- good understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of the relevant areas.
- good knowledge of a large Accounting system and its interfaces with other systems and work areas.
- proficiency in MS Excel and MS Word, and accounting related software such as Oracle, and in the use of databases to extract, manipulate, and summarize data to generate various accounting reports.
- analytical, systematic and strong numerical skills and great attention to detail.
- excellent oral and written skills in English.
- good interpersonal skills and ability to be a strong team player.
- ability to plan schedules in order to meet deadlines.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS05-183(4)-CTAC-IBR** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **7 November 2005**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

ARCHITECT/ INTERIOR DESIGNER

Qualifications

- Licensed Architect cum Interior Designer
- Must have at least 5 years work experience specializing in architecture and/or interior design concepts, principles, practices and their application
- Comprehensive knowledge of National Building and Safety Regulations and Codes
- Knowledgeable in contract administration pertaining to procurement or Architect/Interior Design-related services and construction facilities
- Able to commmunicate in oral and written English to diverse audience
- Must be creative, with a keen sense of color and an eye for detail, a sense of balance and proportion, and sensitivity to aesthetics/beauty
- Sketching ability is a plus
- Can operate AutoCadd
- Can encompass functional tasks such as planning, organizing, controlling, coordinating, reviewing, and approving design and construction work performed by others
- Can embrace a medium/large scale project such as commercial facility
- Can prepare architectural and support cost estimates to achieve the goals of the master plan
- Capable of resolving problems or conflicts impeding progress, ensuring that contractor and agency staff work effectively toward timely project completion

Compensation:

- Competitive compensation package await successful applicant. Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience
- Chance to travel/be assiagned abroad

Interested applicants may personally submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to PACIFIC PALM CORPORATION, 6F Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila or call 522-8907 for more information

Beverage Company in search of Willing to LEARN Self-motivated and innovative

SALES PROFESSIONAL

To handle Special Accounts. Candidates must have experience in the consumer products industry. Send resumé with clearances and references to 4th Floor RB Arcade Bldg., Don Jesus Blvd. Cor. West Service Rd., Alabang Muntinlupa 1770 or email at nacho@islandbev.com

INTERVIEWS WILL BE SCHEDULED

SALES EXECUTIVE

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	MEDICAL PRODUCTS
• Must be a BS Electrical Engineering Graduate	• Must be a graduate of any medical course
• 22 – 30 years old	• 22 – 30 years old
• With at least 2 – 3 yrs. experience in sales	• With at least 2 – 3 yrs. experience in sales Medical supplies
• Can speak fluent English	• Can speak fluent English.

• Preferably graduate from a reputable school.

Interested applicants may contact us at:
HOLLEY INTERNATIONAL (PHILS.) OFFICE
Unit 1403 A West Tower, PSE Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel Nos. 636-1355,636-2042
Mobile: 09275004864
Contact Person: Queenie Cruz

ACCOUNTING CLERK Commerce graduate major in Accounting, with 1 to 2 yrs. experience especially in financial statement, female 21 to 30 years old, residing at Pasay, Makati, Manila, Caloocan and Quezon City area.

ELECTRICIAN - With experience, at least high school graduate, residing at Manila and Quezon City area, Male 21 to 35 years old

ELECTRICIAN - With experience in industrial plant, at least high school graduate, residing at Laguna area, Male 21 to 35 years old

TRAINING ASSISTANT - BS Industrial Engineering, female 21 to 30 years old, computer literate, with pleasing personality, residing at Laguna area

AIRCON TECHNICIAN - With experience, vocational graduate, male 21 to 35 years old residing at Manila and Quezon City area.

DRIVER/STEWARD - At least high school or college level, professional driver with experience, Male 21 to 35 years old, residing at Manila and Quezon City area.

Interested applicants may submit personally their credential at

DIMENSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION
161 Aguirre Ave., BF Homes
Parañaque City
Tel # 826-00-21 to 29 look for Ms. Nora Dumpit or Ms. Inah Gerona

AN INDUSTRY LEADER
urgently needs an

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Female; college graduate; preferably with experience; with pleasing personality, not more than 35 yrs. old, good computer & communications skills.
Fresh grad. are welcome to apply.

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

Must have at least 2 yrs of relevant work experience; has good written and verbal English communication skills and computer literate

Please send comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID Photo, salary expectation, NBI clearance employment certificates and transcript/diploma to P.O. BOX 7748, DOMESTIC AIRPORT POST OFFICE, PARAÑAQUE, or to email address personnel1031@yahoo.com

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Memories

A special supplement on Death Care Industry

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Power of Knowing

in cooperation with

LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA PILIPINAS

BUHAYIN ANG MAYNILA

CITY GOVERNMENT OF MANILA

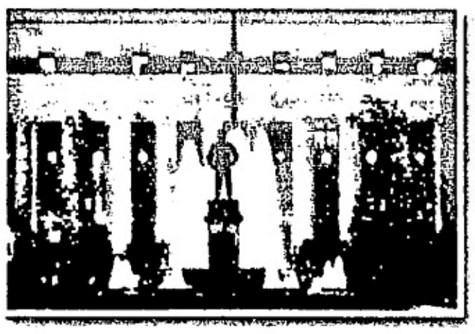
Memories EXPO

An exhibit especially organized to bring together products and services relating to Death Care and more

Bonifacio Shrine
(beside Manila City Hall)
October 25-26, 2005

Tuloy-tuloy ang programang

BUHAYIN ANG MAYNILA !

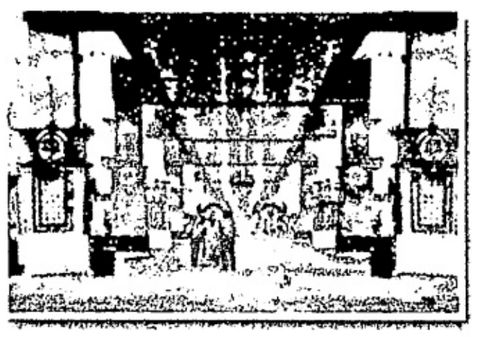


Liwasang Bonifacio

Bulwagang Rodriguez,
Manila City Hall

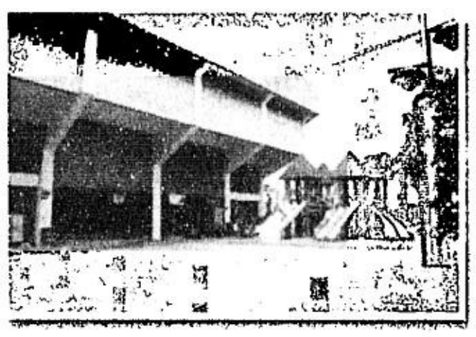
Plaza Balagtas, Pandacan

Rajah Sulayman Park, Malate



Avenida Rizal Pedestrian
Walkway and Shopping Strip

Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard



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Plaza Moriones, Tondo

Lito Atienza
Mayor

BUHÁY NA MAYNILA, BUHAY NG BANSA

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Memorial Park

The only Memorial Park where monuments to our country's historic past and the splendor of Philippine folklore blend with the serenity of eternal remembrance.

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The life plan offers up to 400% coverage based on your selected Plan Value. An additional 10% annual increment on the Plan Value one year after full payment up to age 75 of planholder.

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Our ACE Education Plan is a fixed-value plan that provides for your children's college education. ACE is affordable and flexible, you can use it for tuition and other school expenses.

Our Business is your peace of mind. At Himlayang Pilipino, peace of mind means helping you prepare a brighter future for your family.

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Himlayang Pilipino, Inc.

Himlayang Pilipino Plans, Inc.

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NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES

105 Years

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Honored to have served 8 Philippine Presidents and the countries' most prominent families.

Excellent Service from the Pioneer

MAIN BUILDING

SELECTION ROOM

VIEWING CHAPEL

This funeral home has buried 8 RP presidents

By Joel V. Nigos

EVEN AS LATE AS THE EARLY 1900S, MOST FILIPINOS were still hardly able to pay fitting tribute to their departed loved ones the way most of us are able to now.

This was due to only one simple reason—there was no existing entity that offers the service then.

Thus, when a loved one passed away, the deceased was immediately buried. There were no wakes then where family and friends can pay their last respects. All that was available were crude coffins being offered by fly-by-night *calandras*.

It was during this dearth when Funeraria Nacional, now known as Nacional Funeral Homes, came into being.

Originally located in Avenida Rizal, the founding of Nacional gave meaning to the term funeral service. And since its establishment, it has provided its clients one innovation after another, all of those were non-existent during that time.

Nacional was the first to construct a real funeral parlor equipped with a chapel where the remains of the departed could be viewed. Shortly after, it offered the first private chapel in 1909. It also ushered in metal and hardwood caskets. In 1918, it was again first to provide European- and American-made *candelabras* to its clients.

Before Nacional existed, caskets were usually handcarried by grieving relatives and friends to burial grounds. With the founding of Nacional, imperial horse-drawn hearses were introduced and were promptly replaced by the more efficient Sawyer hearses. When cars were hardly common in Manila's streets in 1932, Nacional already had its first Cadillac hearses. In 1964, Nacional came up with another first, the private air-conditioned chapel.

Buried 8 RP presidents

The funeral services of eight of our country's presidents, namely Quezon, Aguinaldo, Quirino, Osmeña, Magsaysay, Laurel, Roxas and Macapagal, were served by Nacional. Same as with most of our first ladies including Doña Aurora Quezon and Luz Banson-Magsaysay.

Aside from the old rich clans which it also buried, Nacional also arranged the funeral services of well-known and respected personalities such as Carlos P. Romulo, Lamberto Avellana, Marcelo Fernan, Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, Chino Roces, among others.

In 1968, Nacional transferred its funeral home to Araneta Avenue, the first to do so in the area. There, it continued to offer its services with pioneering zeal.

The designs of its various chapels were done by some of the country's leading artists. Its main chapel was also constructed in such a way as to give its various occupants the benefits of a private chapel.

These chapels are provided with adequate facilities such as refrigerators, shelves and cabinets and a dinette in case the family of the departed wish to serve refreshment to the visitors. Should the family of the departed desire to spend the night there, a separate air-conditioned room is also available complete with bathrooms, kitchen, bedroom and a living room. A fully cemented parking area with a 24-hour guard service is also available.

Caters to everybody

Nacional Memorial Homes was founded by Vicente Quiogue, considered as the first Filipino to have mastered the techniques of mortuary science from the Barnes School of Embalming in Chicago, Illinois. He passed on his expertise later to his late son, Antonio Sr., who took the helm of Nacional. At present, its business and managerial responsibilities are in the hands of Antonio Jr., the current General Manager.

Antonio Jr. said that Nacional offers various funeral services and caters to people from all socio-economic strata.

"It's regrettable that people tend to associate big funeral parlors such as ours as being expensive. We have funeral packages from as low as P30,000 to as high as P1 million. It's up to the family how much they can afford. The choice is theirs," Antonio Jr. explained.

He added that the full service included the retrieval of the body from the hospital or from the house of the family, embalming, the casket, an air-conditioned chapel for the wake, the transfers, and up to the interment. That packaged can be had for as low as P30,000 which can even be lower to those being charged by small parlors.

"People can even get better service from us since the service we provide is up to standards. I can say that our mortuary is five-star," he said.

Cremation

As a growing alternative to the traditional ground burial, Nacional also offers cremation services.

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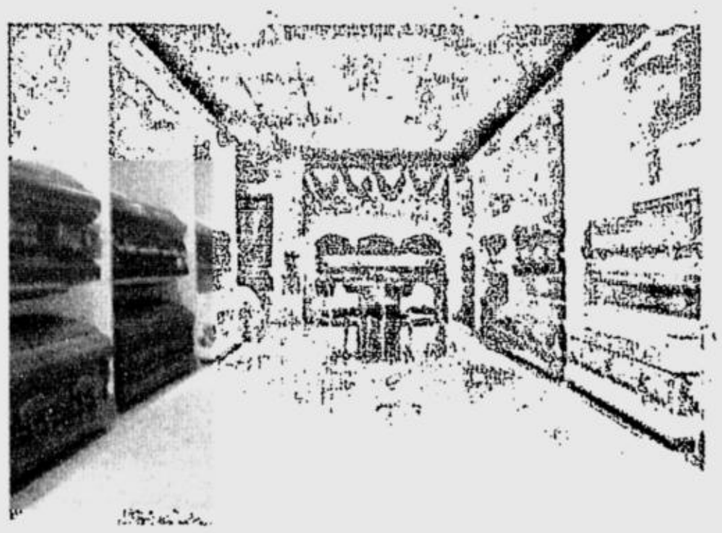
SELECTION ROOM

VIEWING CHAPEL

This funeral home has buried 8 RP presidents

By Joel V. Nigos

EVEN AS LATE AS THE EARLY 1900S, MOST FILIPINOS were still hardly able to pay fitting tribute to their departed loved ones the way most of us are able to now.

This was due to only one simple reason—there was no existing entity that offers the service then.

Thus, when a loved one passed away, the deceased was immediately buried. There were no wakes then where family and friends can pay their last respects. All that was available were crude coffins being offered by fly-by-night *calandras*.

It was during this dearth when Funeraria Nacional, now known as Nacional Funeral Homes, came into being.

Originally located in Avenida Rizal, the founding of Nacional gave meaning to the term funeral service. And since its establishment, it has provided its clients one innovation after another, all of those were non-existent during that time.

Nacional was the first to construct a real funeral parlor equipped with a chapel where the remains of the departed could be viewed. Shortly after, it offered the first private chapel in 1909. It also ushered in metal and hardwood caskets. In 1918, it was again first to provide European- and American-made *candelabras* to its clients.

Before Nacional existed, caskets were usually handcarried by grieving relatives and friends to burial grounds. With the founding of Nacional, imperial horse-drawn hearses were introduced and were promptly replaced by the more efficient Sawyer hearses. When cars were hardly common in Manila's streets in 1932, Nacional already had its first Cadillac hearses. In 1964, Nacional came up with another first, the private air-conditioned chapel.

Buried 8 RP presidents

The funeral services of eight of our country's presidents, namely Quezon, Aguinaldo, Quirino, Osmeña, Magsaysay, Laurel, Roxas and Macapagal, were served by Nacional. Same as with most of our first ladies including Doña Aurora Quezon and Luz Banson-Magsaysay.

Aside from the old rich clans which it also buried, Nacional also arranged the funeral services of well-known and respected personalities such as Carlos P. Romulo, Lamberto Avellana, Marcelo Fernan, Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, Chino Roces, among others.

In 1968, Nacional transferred its funeral home to Araneta Avenue, the first to do so in the area. There, it continued to offer its services with pioneering zeal.

The designs of its various chapels were done by some of the country's leading artists. Its main chapel was also constructed in such a way as to give its various occupants the benefits of a private chapel.

These chapels are provided with adequate facilities such as refrigerators, shelves and cabinets and a dinette in case the family of the departed wish to serve refreshment to the visitors. Should the family of the departed desire to spend the night there, a separate air-conditioned room is also available complete with bathrooms, kitchen, bedroom and a living room. A fully cemented parking area with a 24-hour guard service is also available.

Caters to everybody

Nacional Memorial Homes was founded by Vicente Quiogue, considered as the first Filipino to have mastered the techniques of mortuary science from the Barnes School of Embalming in Chicago, Illinois. He passed on his expertise later to his late son, Antonio Sr., who took the helm of Nacional. At present, its business and managerial responsibilities are in the hands of Antonio Jr., the current General Manager.

Antonio Jr. said that Nacional offers various funeral services and caters to people from all socio-economic strata.

"It's regrettable that people tend to associate big funeral parlors such as ours as being expensive. We have funeral packages from as low as P30,000 to as high as P1 million. It's up to the family how much they can afford. The choice is theirs," Antonio Jr. explained.

He added that the full service included the retrieval of the body from the hospital or from the house of the family, embalming, the casket, an air-conditioned chapel for the wake, the transfers, and up to the interment. That packaged can be had for as low as P30,000 which can even be lower to those being charged by small parlors.

"People can even get better service from us since the service we provide is up to standards. I can say that our mortuary is five-star," he said.

Cremation

As a growing alternative to the traditional ground burial, Nacional also offers cremation services.

"We make arrangements in behalf of the family. Though we don't have cremation facilities, we just refer them to the place which is closer to the family or to the one most convenient to them," he explained.

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October 31 - Monday

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Kite Flying	8:00am - 5:00pm
Face Painting	8:00am onwards
Feng Shui Reading	9:00am onwards
Trick or Treat	3:00pm - 7:00pm
Special Show/ Awarding of Prizes	8:00pm - 9:00pm

November 1 - Tuesday

Painting Exhibit	8:00am - 5:00pm
Kite Flying	8:00am - 5:00pm
Fishing	8:00am - 5:00pm
Face Painting	8:00am onwards
Feng Shui Reading	9:00am onwards
Eucharistic Celebration	10:00am - 11:00am
Blessing of Graves	12:00nn - 4:00pm
Candle Lighting and Inspirational Talk by Rev. Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Movie Screening	9:00pm - 11:00pm

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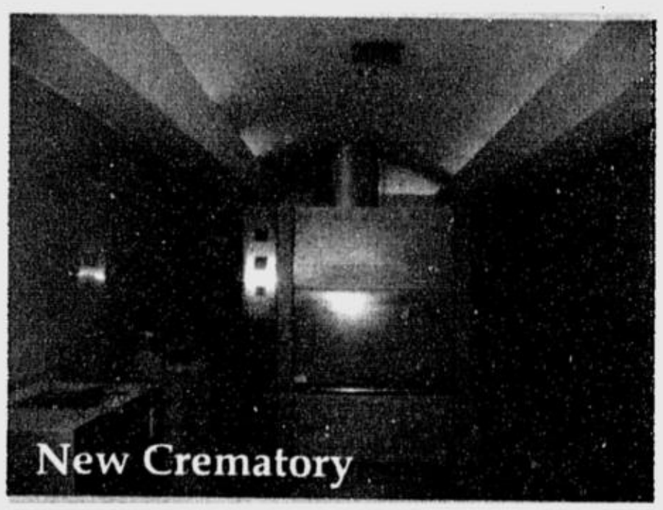
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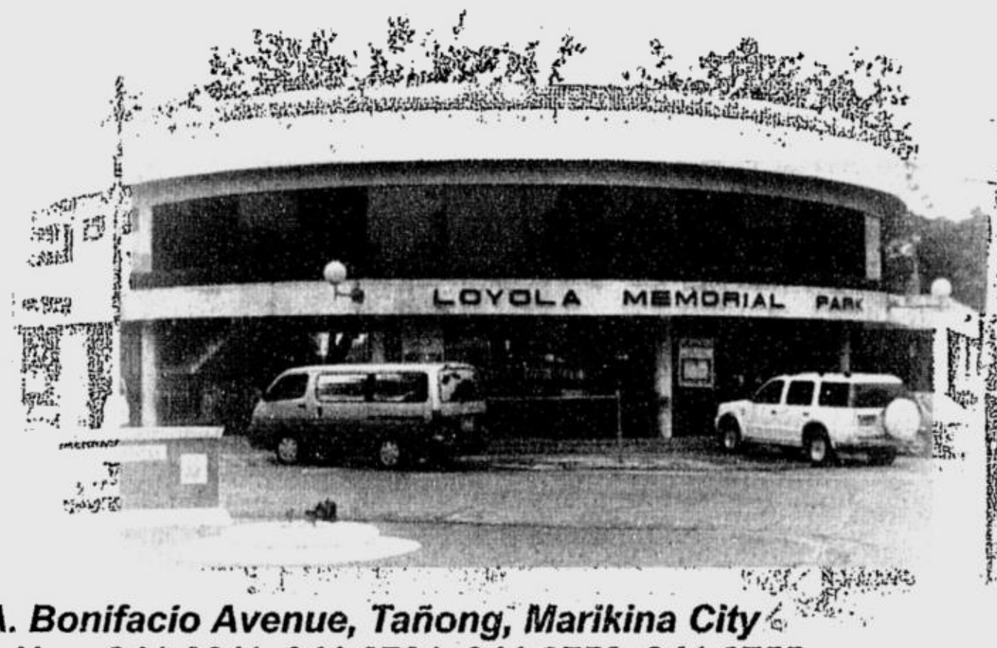

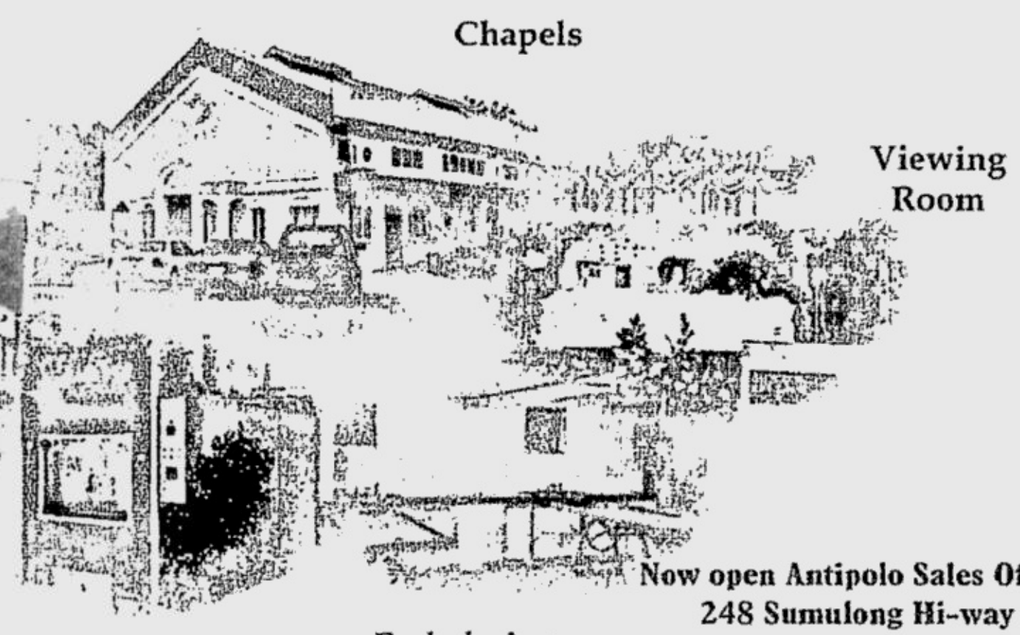

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Many have not learned to deal with the total concept of mortality by ignoring the idea of planning ahead for the inevitable until the need arises. But the loss of a loved-one can be a beautiful time, a deeply moving personal moment. It should be viewed as a meaningful experience when one must finally come home after completing a full life on Earth. This way, it gives your family the peace of mind they can hold onto making it easier for them to let go. That is why it is important to pre-plan and pre-arrange your *"homecoming"* to unburden those whom you will leave behind with the details, difficult decisions and financial pressures of final arrangements.

The Prudentialife Memorial Services Group is committed to provide this kind of homecoming pre-planning and at need assistance through an integrated memorial services designed for the Filipino family. This involves an organized linkage between the life plan, mortuaries and memorial parks.

Prudentialife Life Plan

The family has always been at the center in the lives of Filipinos. This is the reason for all their love, hardships and sacrifices by providing them the good life. But even at the time of loss, that same love and concern must be felt even more immensely than any other time and this is where Prudentialife shares in such a responsibility.

Prudentialife Life Plan is dedicated to give you peace of mind, security, comfort and convenience through its prompt, professional and personal service. Prudentialife offers you a range of Life Plans with built-in protection and flexibility features; fully loaded with superior insurance benefits that guarantee longer and greater protection and security. As part of the Life Plan product line, Prudentialife also offers a Cremation Plan which is a cremation service package where you can choose your desired term and mode of payment.

Prudentialife Life Plan protects your family from worry at the time of need. It allows you to prepare for a future that is secure and worry-free.

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(Araneta, Recto and Baguio)

La Funeraria Paz started with one small chapel built at the corner of Calle Paz (now C.M. Recto) and Calle Imanza (now Tomas Mapua St.), a place where families and friends could pay their last respects to their departed loved ones. For 105 years now, La Funeraria Paz has provided the nation with unmatched dignified and excellent memorial services.

2005 Gawad Parangal for Paz

For its continuing tradition of dignity and excellence, the Quezon City government awarded La Funeraria Paz with the 2005 Gawad Parangal for Outstanding Mortuary Business and Humanitarian Service Enterprise and Corporate Citizen during its founding anniversary on October 12, 2005. The QC government cited La Funeraria Paz *for conducting its services with efficiency, care and dignity for over a hundred years; for providing free burial services for police and fire personnel and Baranggay Security Officers who died in the line of duty; and for special assistance services in both forensic and*

"Matuto kang maging maayos at di habang buhay nandito ako para alagaan ka."

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Ang Prudentialife ay may mga produkto at services na babagay sa iyong mga pangangailangan. May higit na 12 billion na trust fund, 30,000 sales associates at 1,000 personnel. Bisitahin ang aming mga branches nationwide. Makakasiguro ka na matatag at maayos ang knabukasan ng iyong pamilya sa Prudentialife.

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Professional Counselling. Paz has sales and counseling staff on call 24 hours a day. They have high level of professionalism and expertise that enables them to give sound advice to bereaved families regarding the right approach in funeral services. One phone call will prompt our attendants to attend to our clients' needs.

La Funeraria Paz-Sucat

La Funeraria Paz-Sucat is the largest and most modern mortuary south of Metro Manila where it is conveniently located at the main entrance gate of Manila Memorial Park.

To respond to the changing needs of bereaved families, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat offers modern facilities and value added services: (1) 24 well appointed chapels with air-conditioned family rooms the largest of which can accommodate 400 people; equipped with piped-in music and burning trays for select guests; (2) A complete casket display room enables the family to choose varied kinds of casket models that would satisfy their needs; (3) Large fleet of hearses that is appropriate for the solemnity of the occasion; (4) Affordable and flexible memorial service packages to suit every family's budget including cremation packages (5) Professional and well-trained counselling staff on call 24-hours a day; and (6) Ample guarded parking space.

When the time comes, the journey of a loved one into eternal life is the most difficult reality to accept. But through La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, you can now afford to let go.

Garden of the Ascension-Iloilo

Garden of the Ascension

The Garden of the Ascension is part of Prudentialife's commitment which began with its pre-need life plans: to provide the most fitting memorialization for those who have enriched our lives. Well-kept lawns, plants and shaded trees along wide avenues and well-lit walkways will provide a tranquil setting for families to remember their loved ones.

The Garden of the Ascension offers affordable lawn lots, memorial courts and spacious family estates. With an integrated and innovative memorial park services, both Garden of the Ascension in Tarlac and Iloilo have magnificent gates that welcome you as you enter a place of tranquility, cemented road, fresh green lawn, concrete perimeter fence, Administration building, and ample guarded parking space.

Garden of the Ascension Tarlac and Iloilo stand as a testament to Prudentialife's continuing commitment of providing excellent memorial service to the people. Their success on the other hand stands as witness to the people's trust in Prudentialife.

105 years of
unmatched memorial services

For 105 years now, La Funeraria Paz has provided the nation unmatched dignified and excellent memorial services.

La Funeraria Paz started with one small chapel built at the corner of Calle Paz (now C.M. Recto) and Calle Almanza (now Tomas Mapua St.), a place where families and friends could pay their last respects to their departed loved ones.

Since then, La Funeraria Paz has established a tradition of dignified and excellent services. Today as tradition lives on, it has progressed with 75 chapels: 28 in Araneta, 16 in Recto, 7 in Baguio and 24 in Sucat. As witness to numerous events, having stood the ravages of the Second World War, La Funeraria Paz has remained strong and resilient through the years.

La Funeraria Paz continues to set its sights to another century of providing excellent and dignified memorial services.

La Funeraria Paz has established a tradition of dignified and excellent service. Distinguished personages Apolinario Mabini and Melchora Aquino were among the first to whom Paz rendered memorial services.

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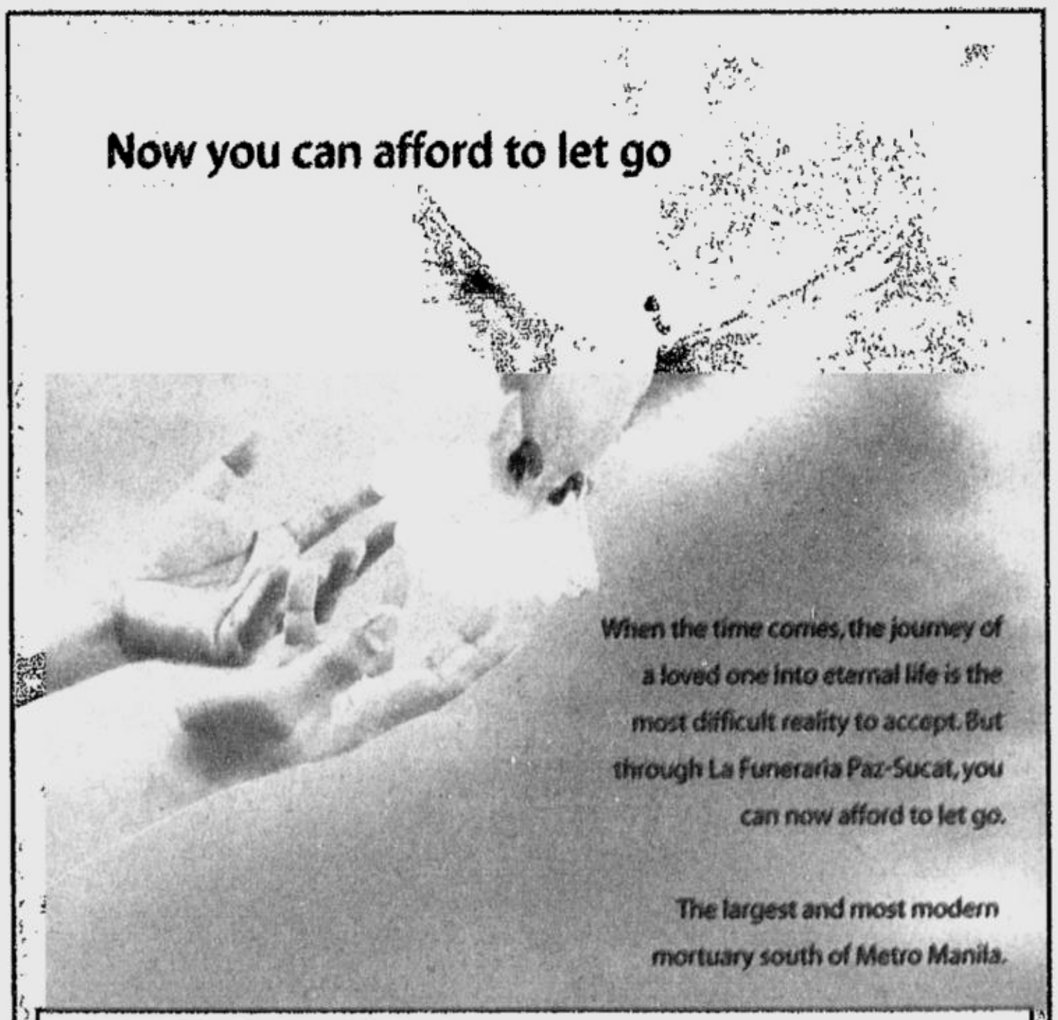

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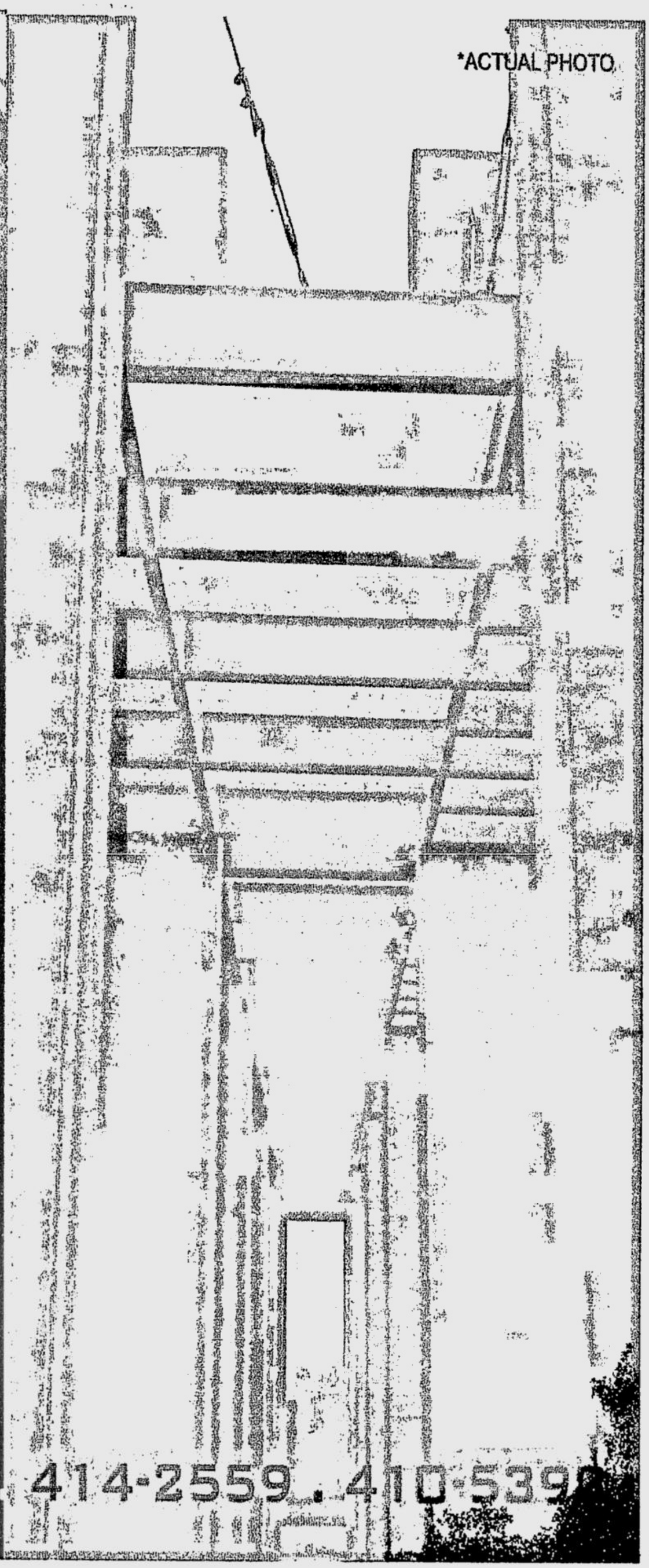


'Each one should have his special send-off'

By Joel V. Nigos

"EACH ONE SHOULD HAVE HIS SPECIAL send-off," shares Raffy Jose, president of Arlington Memorial Chapels, considered as one of the finest funeral chapels in the country today.

This is the underlying reason why, says Raffy, that Arlington continues to strive to offer personalized service to their clients. They are aimed to provide tribute for the departed and to create a lasting memory for his loved ones.

Arlington in recent years has offered these added services to their clients. Among these are the memorialization for the dead, the assistance of a memorial host, the holding of wakes away from the funeral chapel, and personal themed setups.

Memorialization for the dead is a way of giving tribute to the deceased by depicting his life from his youth to his golden age. This would give visitors to the wake, who are paying their last respects, idea to the life the deceased has lived during his time on earth.

"When we do interviews with the family, we try to ask what the deceased was like—his love, his passion—that way we are able to suggest ways how we can do the tribute," says Raffy. "During the wake, we can have a certain theme for the deceased. For example, if the deceased loves the garden, we can set up a garden setting for his wake. Some that brings back the person to life at least in pictures and mementos."

Arlington pioneered the service about seven years ago.

Personal themed setups

Arlington also does personal themed setups in churches or homes or wherever the family wants to have the wake.

"We did one for the late Tan Yu where we transformed his huge sala into a gazebo setup complete with trimmings of a garden. We also put all his belongings in the setup," he says.

Raffy says they did also one for a Chinese family in an auditorium where they put waterfalls and a rocking chair.

"That's what we've been telling our clients. Pay tribute to your departed in his own special way," he stresses. "The wake has to be personalized. Like in the case of Joe Burgos, his typewriter and a bottle of whisky were there."

The latest among the new added services now being provided by Arlington is what they call the memorial host.

"The memorial host is the person in charge of the interment. Now we have put some sort of a program during the funeral rite, someone who'll bring people in, keep them there and probably sing songs," he explains. He adds that the rationale of having a memorial host is that nobody is really prepared whenever death struck a family.

"During the interment, it's either no one among the family knows what to do or what to do next. Or they know what to do but no one's willing to do it," shares Raffy. He says that with a memorial host, the deceased would definitely be given a fitting tribute down to the last minute of the rites. The assistance of a memorial host is included in certain packages.

Keeping up with the trends

To keep up with the trends in the mortuary business, Arlington always attends the annual convention of all funeral directors in the US. This year's meeting was held in Chicago.

"It showcases the new equipment, the trends in the industry. It also has seminars/workshops that discuss how client/family interact and react in the things that we do in the industry. There are sales/marketing techniques, customer service, health and occupational safety issues," says Raffy.

Raffy says that the US is more advanced as far as the mortuary industry is concerned. He adds that they attend the convention primarily for their clients' benefit because whatever they learned there they apply it in their business.

Like a family

Since it began to offer its service on June 27, 1982, Arlington has remained as a family business.

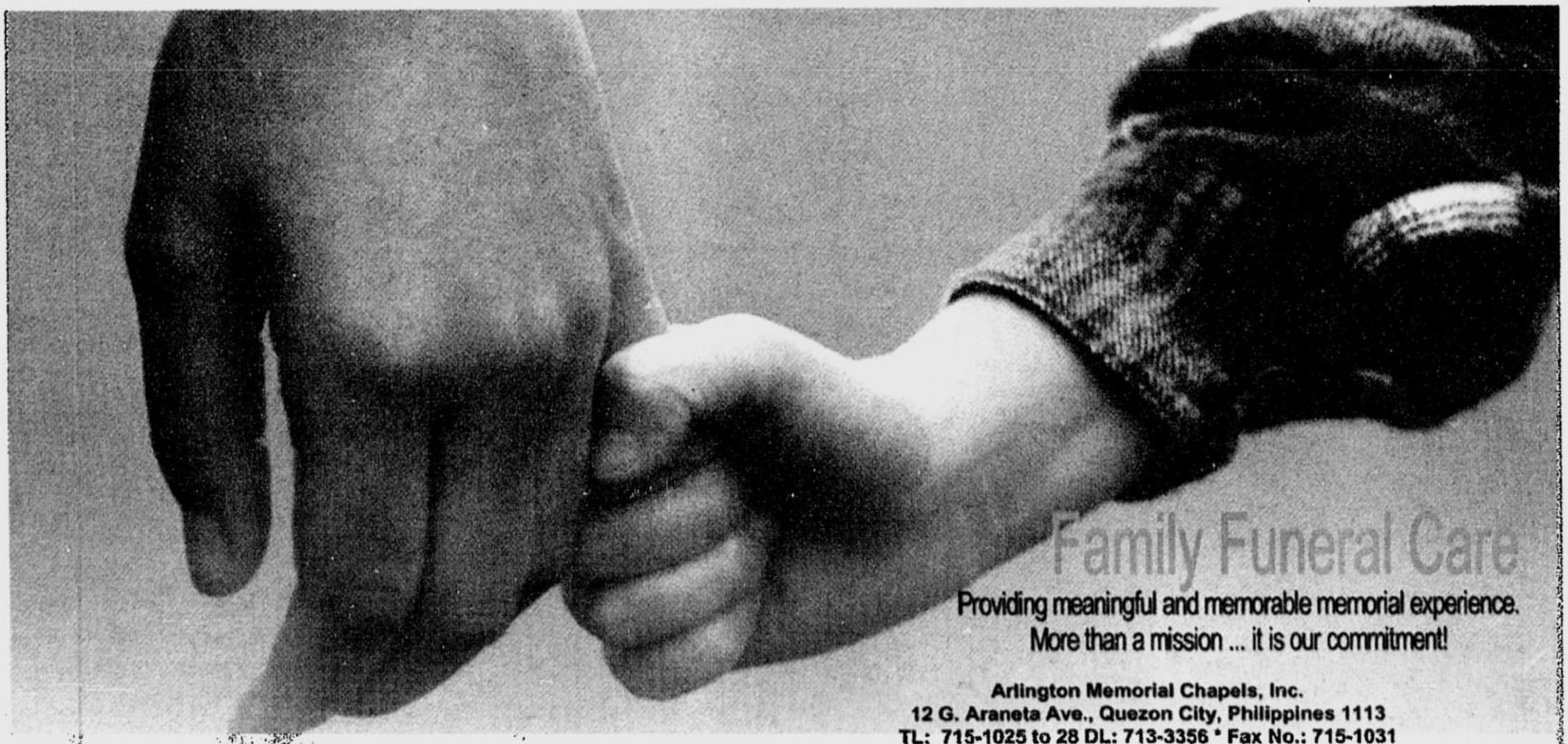
It was founded by the late Nestor Lopez Jose who passed away in 1992. At present, the rest of the family is running the business and has continued with his legacy. Belen Siasoco Jose, the widow, is chairman of the board, Raffy, Cynthia is executive vice president, Menchie is VP for purchasing, Cristina is VP for operations and Carrie is in charge of corporate affairs. Together, they have combined their various expertise in the fields of medicine, advertising, marketing and psychology to provide better service for their clients.

THE family behind Arlington Memorial Chapels, (seated from left) Cynthia, Belen and Raffy (standing, from left) Menchie, Carrie and Cristina.

Arlington serves over 2,000 families a month or on the average about 180 per month. This makes it one of the top funeral firms today.

Raffy says that Arlington's success lies in the fact that it remains as a family business.

"We believe it is our strength because we run Arlington like a family. And in this kind of business you'd like to be handled by the care of a family instead of people hired and paid to do the work," he explains. "We're hands-on and in some funerals, the whole Jose family is out there assisting the relatives of the departed."



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Life's final resting place should be one that gives peace of mind as well as convenience to those left behind. Sadly, the sorry state of memorial parks today – overcrowdedness and inadequate parking – makes the annual visit a drudgery.

The St. Therese of the Child Jesus Columbarium is a breath of fresh air to those who seek peace and privacy in the comfort of family and friends. A majestic structure with a total of 38,000 imported *Air-conditioned and Garden (Alfresco) Vaults*, it is the first of its kind in the Philippines. *Starting November 2005, the Alfresco Vaults are available for the transfer of Urns/Ashes or Bone Remains.* The columbarium also boasts of having a *secured basement parking system that can accommodate up to 168 vehicles.*

A Remembering Chapel - *La Chapelle des Roses*, situated within the Columbarium with a seating capacity of 120 provides much needed peace and allows family and friends to hold masses and novenas in utmost privacy.

A Virtual Video Library - *La Bibliotheque des Memoirs* enables Columbarium Vault owners to store images and videos that can be viewed whenever desired. *A Memorial Wall*, which bears the name of the dearly departed, also stands tall to honor their legacy. The family can also bring out the Urns of their dearly departed to commemorate special events like All Souls Day and Death // Birth Anniversaries.

A Perpetual Maintenance Trust Fund frees vault owners from monthly and annual maintenance fees.

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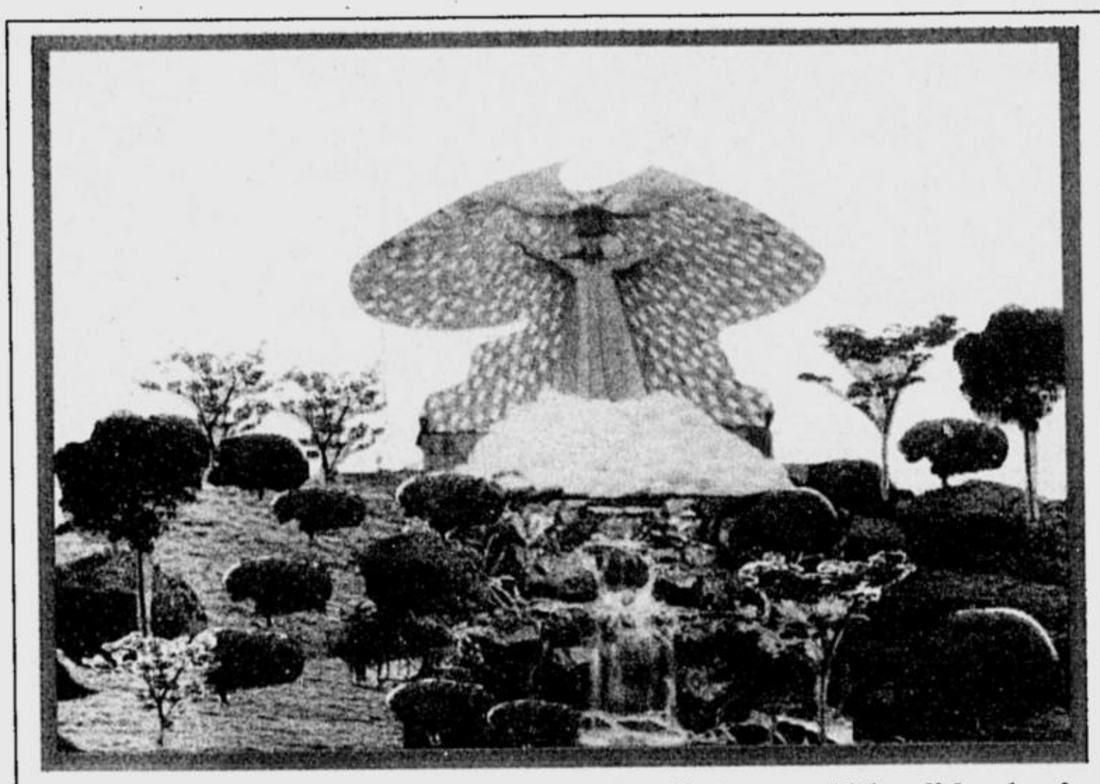

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- Also provide chairs, tables, toldas, water dispensers, band, video, gravestone markers with picture, flowers until interment. **FREE** of charge

Where and how to own a piece of Philippine history

DO YOU KNOW THAT A TRUE HISTorical site is right within the heart of Quezon City?

It is a place showcasing our culture and history, serving as a testimony to the courage and greatness of the Filipino ... and more.

The remains of our national heroes, Melchora "Tandang Sora" Aquino and General Emilio Jacinto, are eternalized in their shrines built in this place. Stone and brass sculptures and murals done by famous Filipino artists are also featured in this site. Capturing the Filipino nationalism are works of art depicting the "Cry of Pugad Lawin" and the heroism of Gabriela Silang and Teresa Magbanua. Legends of love and courage are immortalized in the epic work of Francisco Baltazar, "Florante at Laura," and the statue of "Malakas and Maganda," the legendary first Filipino man and woman.

These pieces of Philippine history are actually found in a memorial park—the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. And that is why the park evokes warm feelings of national pride, remembrance of a loved one and peace of mind to its clients and visitors.

A reflection of the Filipino history, culture and spirit and a reminder of the greatness of the Filipino. Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park is a true historical site, a hallowed place and a witness to the heroism and bravery of our national heroes.

Among the major memorial parks in Metro Manila, the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park offers the widest affordable inventory clients from all income levels can choose from. All lots and areas are beautifully situated on well-maintained land closest to nature with its green grass, flowering shrubs and shady trees.

The Lawn Area, in single units or in blocks of several lots traversed by concrete pathways. The Memorial Area affords families with distinction and privacy. The Memorial Area is available in 4, 5, 8 and 12 lots. The Family Estates feature permanent mausoleums of artistic designs. The Estates come in 16 and 24 lots. Located in ultra-exclusive areas are the Memorial Terraces, which features structures constructed according to the families' own designs and park specification. The Memorial Terraces are available in 32 and 40 lots.

Complementing these pieces of Philippine history (and more) is another historical first—the Himlayang Pilipino Life Plan. This is the first Fixed-Value Memorial Plan in the country launched in 1978 which offers the highest benefits from day one of the first payment at affordable rates—truly an innovation that has improved the life plan industry. In 1992, Himlayang Pilipino added another client-friendly product to its affordable line—the Fixed-Value Assured College Education (ACE) Plan. ACE Plan benefits have been consistently released even ahead of the regular college semestral enrollment over the years.

Himlayang Pilipino is indeed more than a memorial park. At Himlayang Pilipino, peace of mind means helping you prepare a secured or your family. The "Memories Expo," an expo on the death care industry specially organized by the Philippine Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila, brings together different products and services related to the death care industry. Visit the Himlayang Pilipino exhibit booth during this two-day event, from Oct. 25 to 26, 2005 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside the Manila City Hall). Likewise there will be sales information booths at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, 2005.

Visit its head office at the 8th floor, Triumph Building, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City or call 927-9671 to 75 to find out how you can own a piece of Philippine history, plus more.

Manila Memorial Park

SUCAT
HOLY CROSS
DASMARIÑAS
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Manila Memorial Parks...

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MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS IS A COMPLETE AND service-oriented funeral home operated by Marian Memorial Chapels Inc. Ten years after it was established, the business expanded and was incorporated so it could serve more families for their loved ones' final celebration of life. This is always done in the efficient yet compassionate hands of Marian Memorial Chapels' professional staff.

Marian Memorial Chapels is situated along Marcos Highway, Antipolo City. Its location is near the vicinity of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Robinson's Metro East and several subdivisions and villages such as Filinvest East, Town and Country Executive Village, Vermont Royale and Vermont Park. It houses several chapels, which can accommodate over a hundred family members and visitors per chapel at any given time. Each chapel has its own air-conditioned family room with sofa bed and comfort rooms.

Marian Memorial Chapels also provides funeral services to adjacent subdivisions or villages and barangays within Rizal province, Quezon City, Marikina City, Pasig City, other cities and municipalities within Metro Manila and to all provinces nationwide. It can also accommodate and facilitate services overseas, inbound and outbound.

Since Marian Memorial Chapels entered into this field of specialized service, it continuously innovates through the efforts of its proactive and dynamic team.

In line with its thrusts of providing better service, additional amenities are being built. A memorialization room is designed to accommodate the growing needs of its clientele. Its Garden Wing expansion is also on its way to completion.

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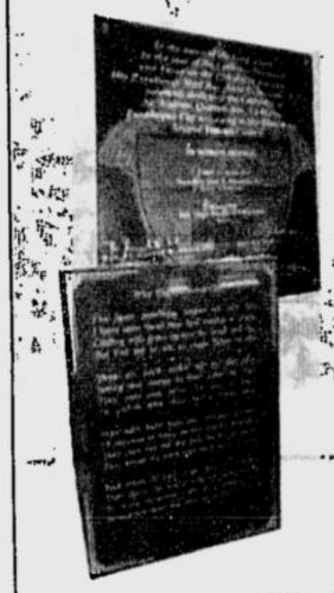

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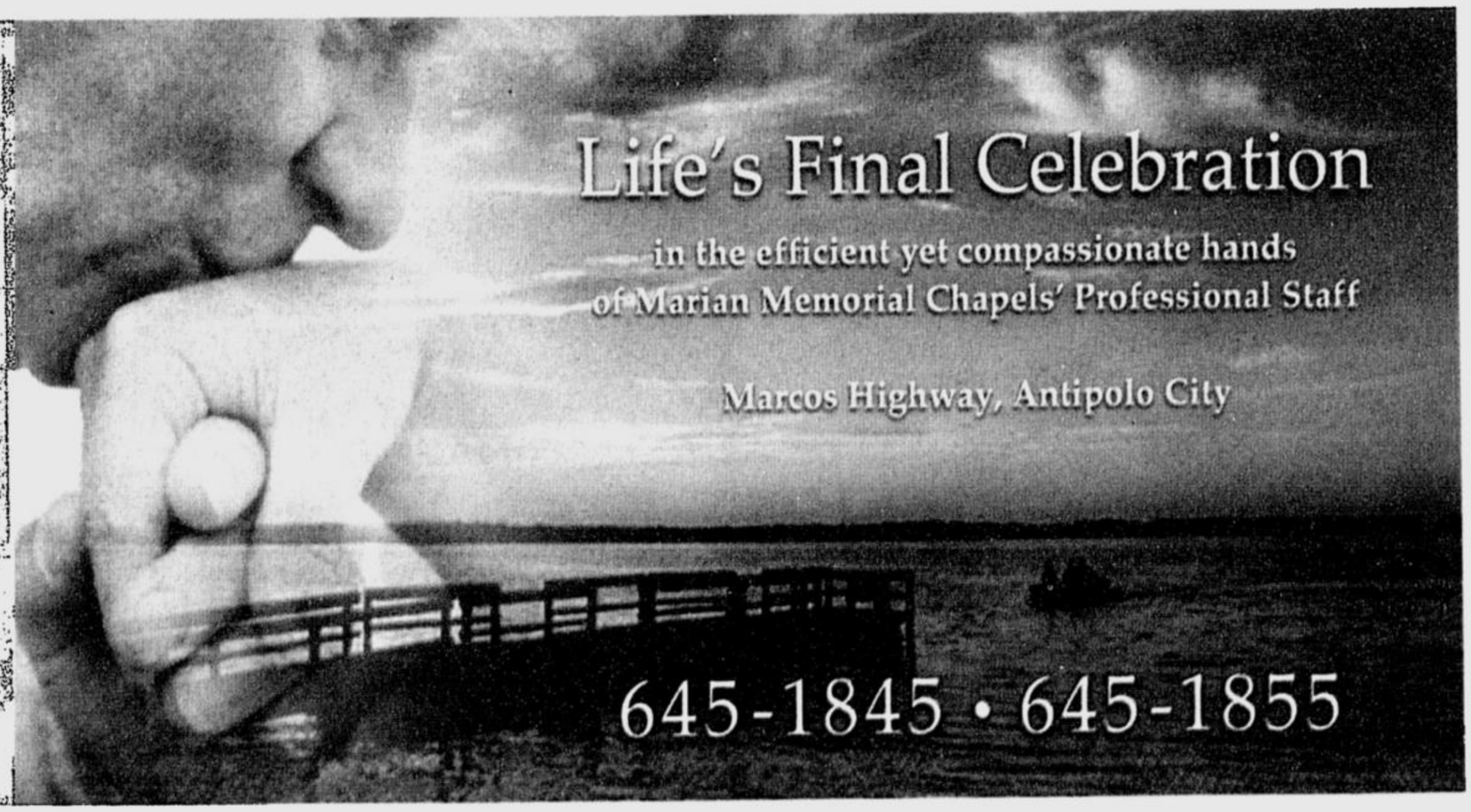


EVER MEMORIAL GARDEN

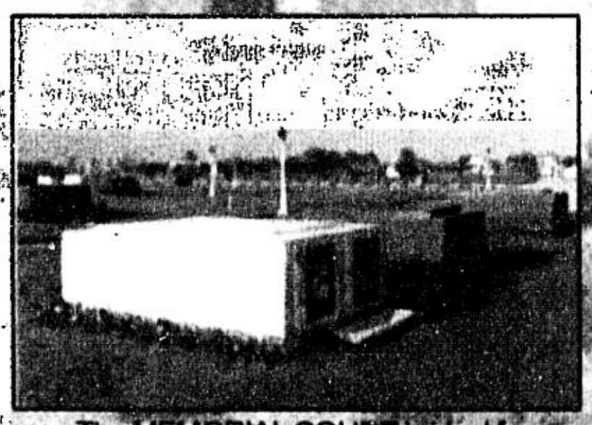
Forever in Memory

The GARDEN LAWN offers the traditional in-ground burial marked by marble tablets.

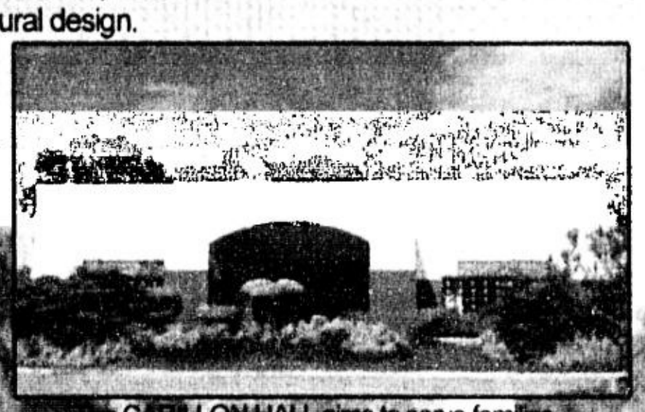
The FAMILY ESTATE showcases private mausoleums of exquisite architectural design.

The skylighted open-air CHAPEL stands prominently in the center of a lagoon.

The ROYAL BELL TOWER holds 18 computer driven carillon bells crafted by the Royal Petit & Fritsen Bellfoundry of Holland.



The MEMORIAL COURT is ideal for both in-ground and above-ground burials.



The CARILLON HALL aims to serve families who favor cremation.

The CROWN PAVILLION is a columbarium of 2,000 crypts in a vast garden setting.

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The Court Area- A most meaningful memoralization tradition that has transcended time, the Court area features outdoor ground niches set amid lush greens in a most soothing garden setting.

The Estate Area- Privacy and elegance best describe the Estate area which highlights the family mausoleum in all its understated architectural grace and grandeur.

The Columbarium Area - A first in the country, the Columbarium Area provides families a more modern approach to memoralization in a refreshingly sacred sanctuary for cremated remains.

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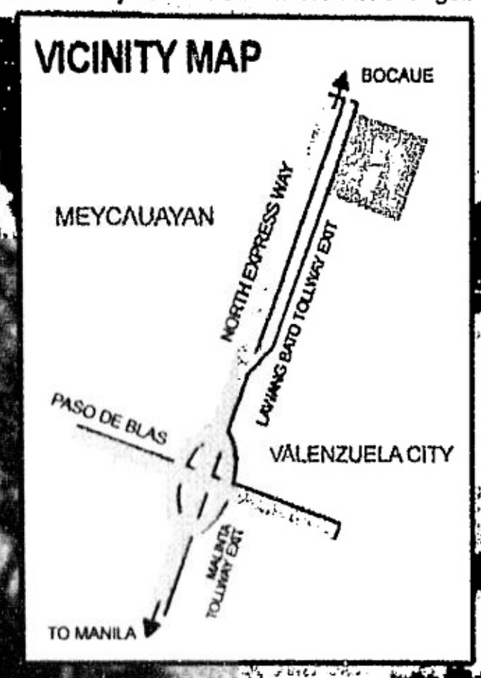
4. Gives families the opportunities of realizing substantial savings and selecting appropriate memorial properties by investing now; and

5. Empowers family members to have peace of mind by making decisions together.



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Preparing for the inevitable

DESPITE THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADvances and modern knowledge that have widened our views, most people still cringe when the subject turns to death. Filipinos, in general, have yet to accept the fact that death is indeed inevitable.

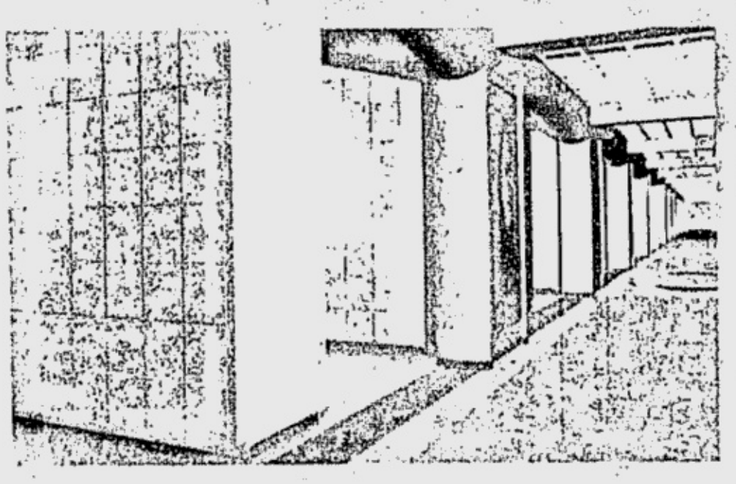
The pain of loss is always hard to bear. It becomes even harder with the psychological and physical burden of having to deal with other matters that needs attention in the event of death.

"Enlightened" ones have foreseen this early on, so they take steps to alleviate the stress and anxiety of the ones they will leave behind.

There are a number of options open as far as preparing for the "inevitable" is concerned. Gaining popular support now is cremation. Once viewed as a denial of Christian dogmas, it has since been accepted, with the Catholic Church offering its stand on cremation as a legitimate mode of disposing the body of the departed faithful. With more and more people opening their minds to the idea, cremation has become a dignified means of interment and has become increasingly practical, as land needed for ground burial have become scarce and expensive.

Though the Church supports the practice of cremation, it doesn't recommend keeping the urns in homes or scattering the ashes of the dearly departed at sea as it believes in the reverent burial of the dead. That is why Magnificat Ventures Corp. is constructing a Columbarium in the Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus at Manlunas Street, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. The Shrine's Columbarium is both a refuge from life's thorns and a respite for the soul because it is the most ideal and revered resting place where the ashes or urns or even bone remains of the dearly departed may be deposited.

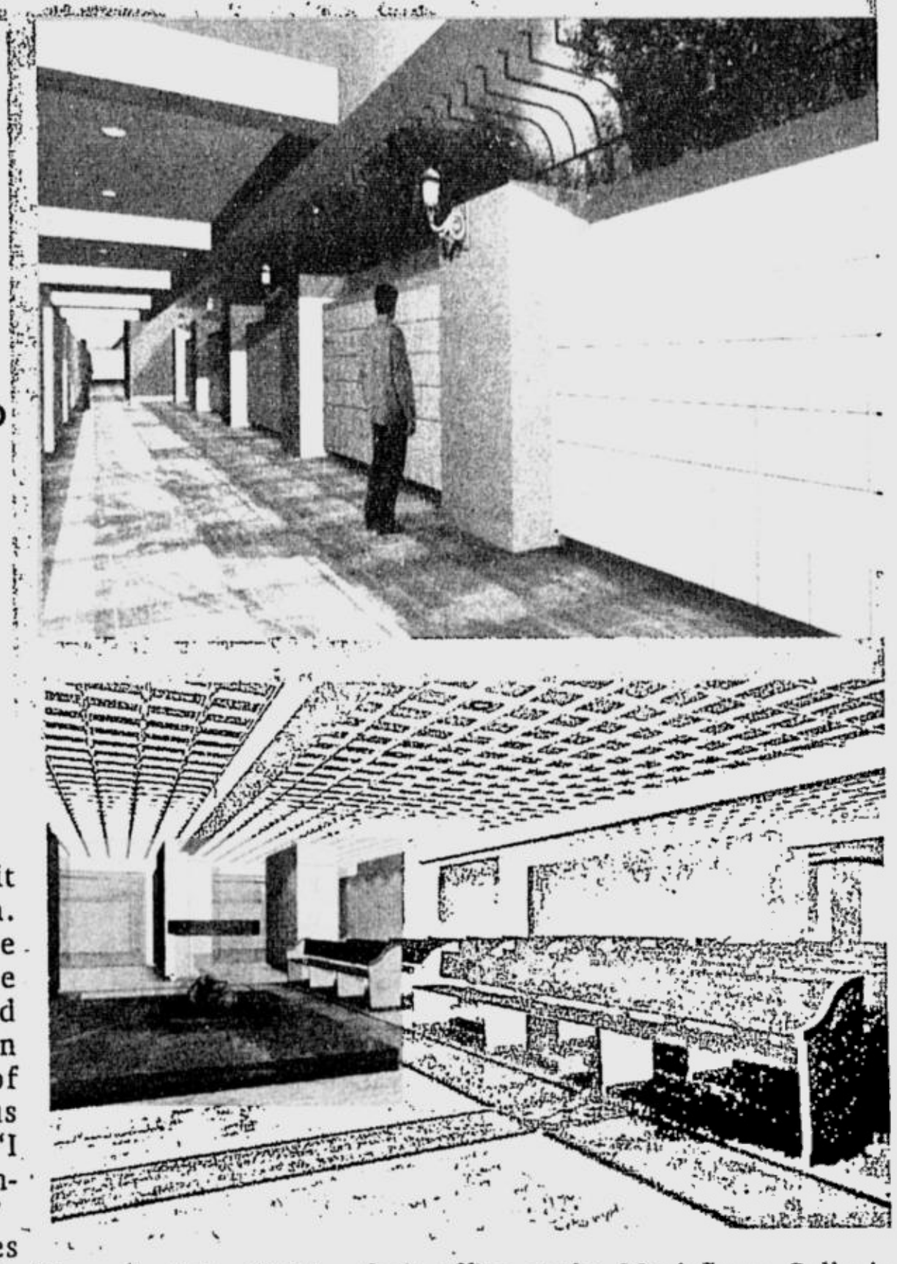
The Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus is a majestic structure with a total of 38,000 imported air-conditioned and Garden (Alfresco) Vaults. Situated within the structure of the Shrine, a fitting sanctuary to honor the memories of the dearly departed. The serenity of the place gives the family of the departed the much-needed peace at the time of death. Its Remembering Chapel, La Chapelle des Roses, allows the family to hold Masses and novenas in utmost privacy. Starting November 2005, the Shrine's Garden (Alfresco) Vaults will be available for the transfer of ashes or urns or bone remains of departed loved ones.



(RIGHT) Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Columbarium GARDEN (ALFRESCO) VAULTS

(LEFT) Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, AIR-CONDITIONED (Interior) VAULTS

(LOWER RIGHT) Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Columbarium REMEMBERING CHAPEL - LA CHAPELLE DES ROSES



Death is truly difficult to bear. But preparing for it eases the pain. In accepting the inevitable, one should instead take comfort in St. Therese of the Child Jesus very words, "I did not die, I entered into life."

For inquiries on the Shrine St. Therese of the Child Jesus Columbarium, call Magnificat Ventures Corp. at 635-4680, 635-4482, 635-4527 and 636-6279; site tel. no. 853-9189; fax no. 687-1477. Or visit their office at the 22nd floor, Galleria Corporate Center, Edsa corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City 1100 or the Shrine's website, www.sttheresheshrine.com.

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Mas mababa ang presyo nito kumpara sa ibang tent. Kaya for those who are interested contact Triplex Auto Detailing & Trading, located at 28 cor. KG St., Kamias Road, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 928-1486, Telefax 929-5803.

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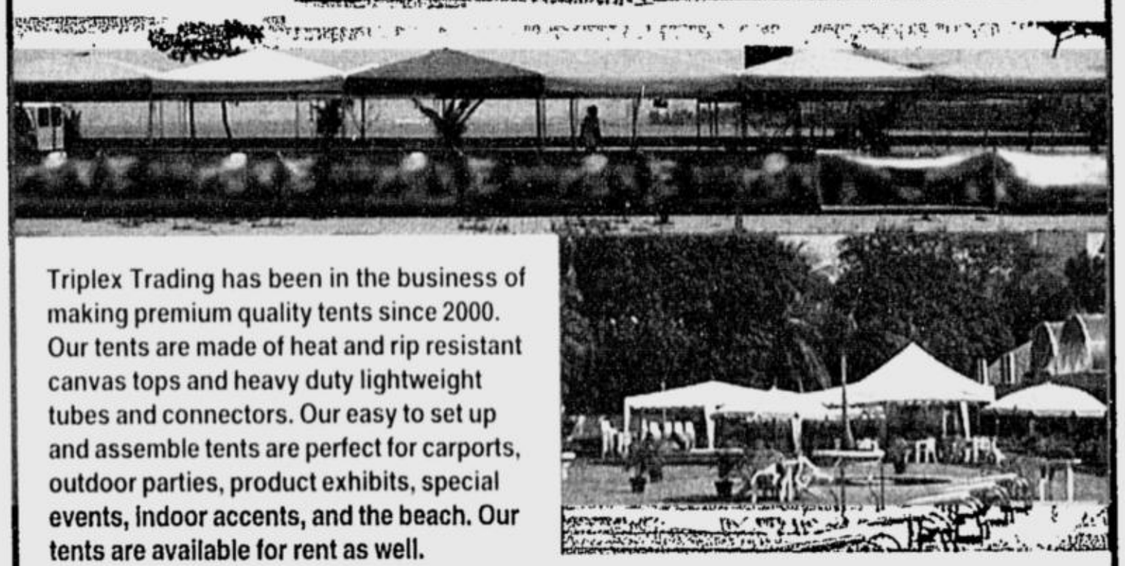

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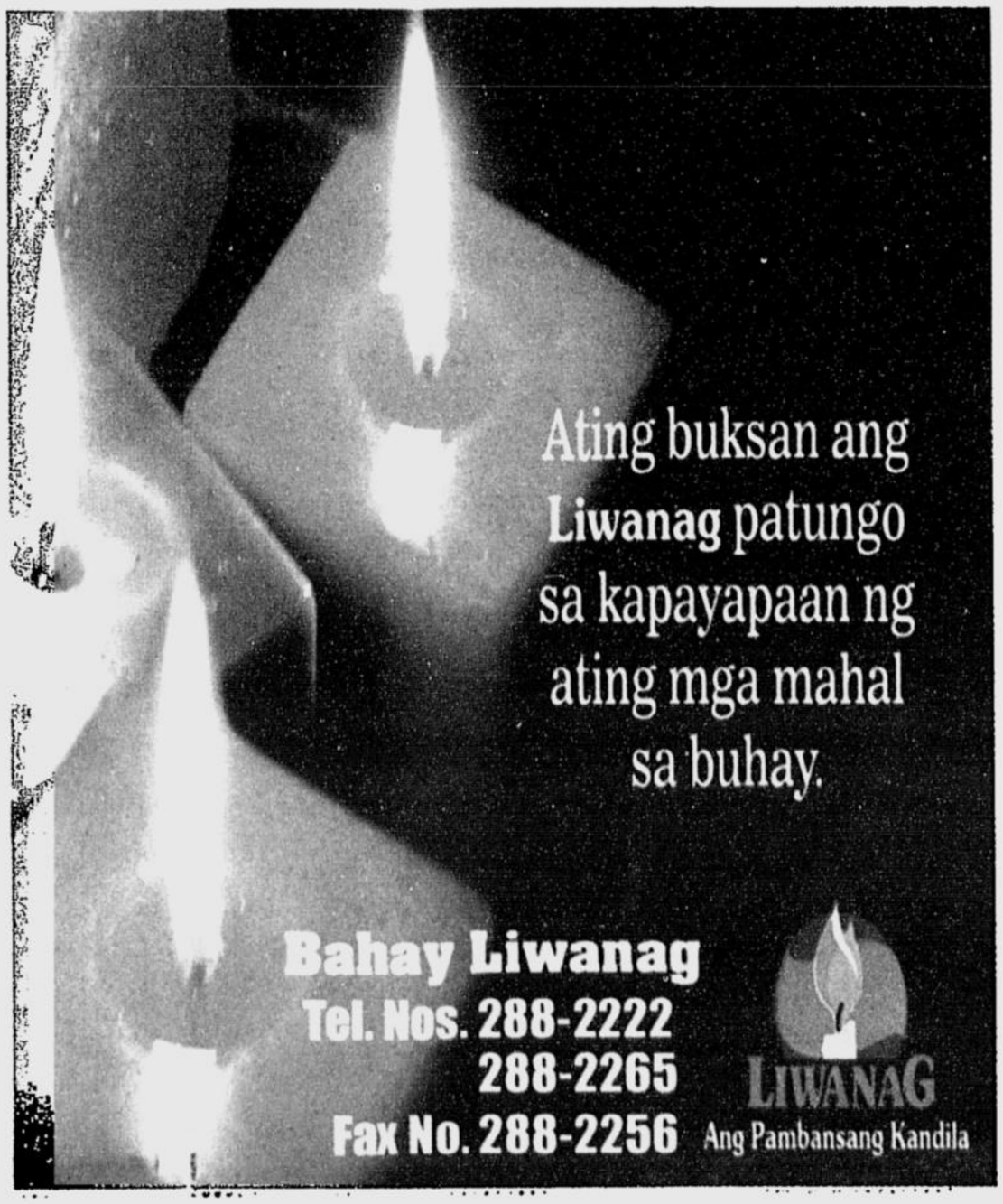


MANILA NORTH GREEN PARK

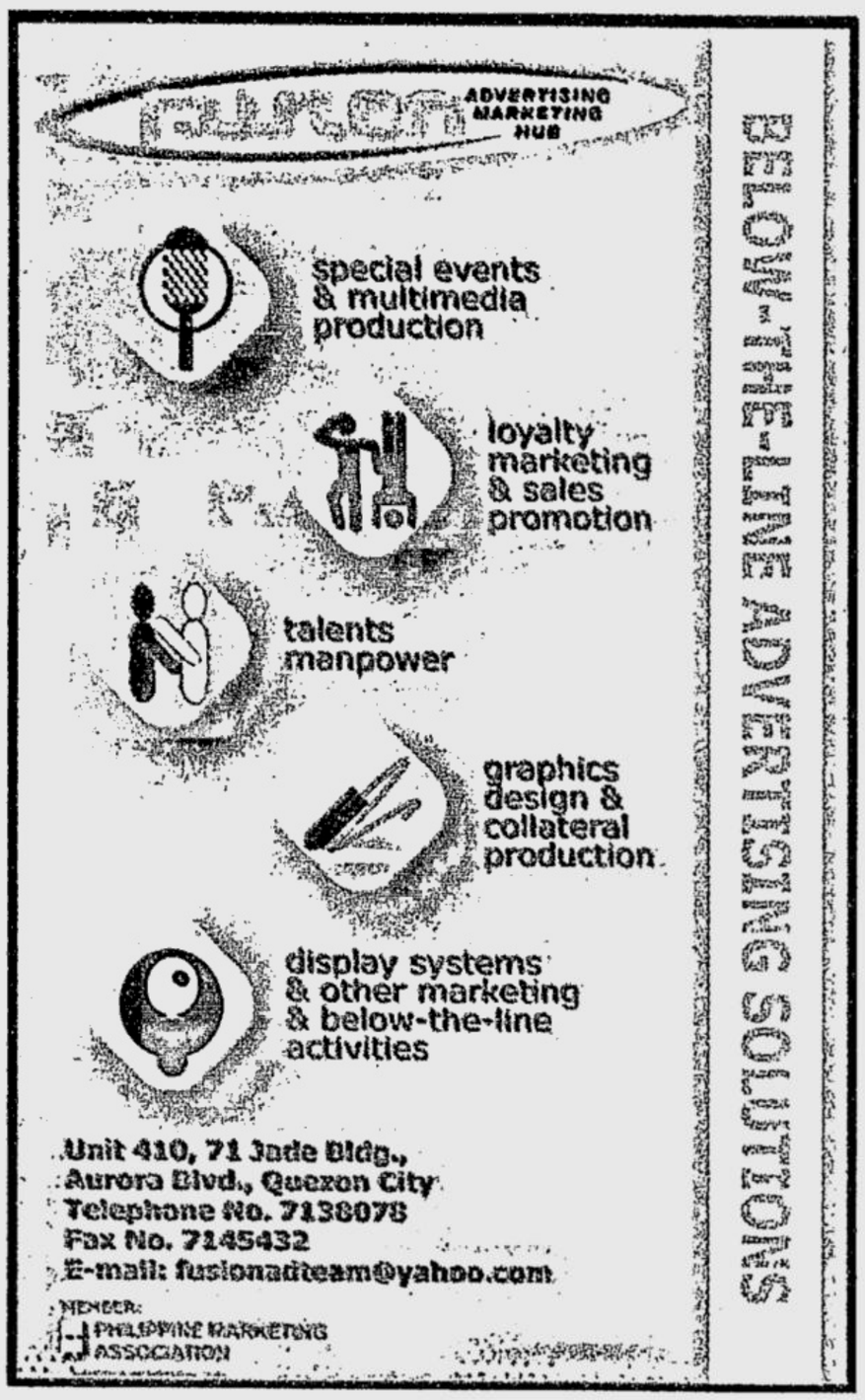
A memorable resting place for your loved ones

HIGH-END MEMORIAL PARK AMENITIES AND FEATURES YET still have the serene environment your dearly departed truly deserves characterize the new Manila North Green Park, a memorial park which is an extension of the Manila North Cemetery.

Consists of multi-level bone and coffin crypts which are patterned after the innovative and modern technology developed in Canada and the United States, the park can compare with other high-end memorial parks with the respectability and serenity that is expected of a final resting place for our beloved ones.

Manila North Green Park is a joint venture between the local government of Manila headed by Mayor Lito Atienza and the City Council and CHC Development Consortium Inc. composed of CYME, a company involved in the financial packaging of some large-scale projects during the last 15 years and H. R. Lopez, a Triple A construction company which has been in the business for the past 50 years.

Inaugurated on Oct. 28, 2004, the Park now accepts interment for ash, bone and coffin crypts. It will have its Grand Open House on Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 2005 where special discounts and freebies are given to lucky customers.



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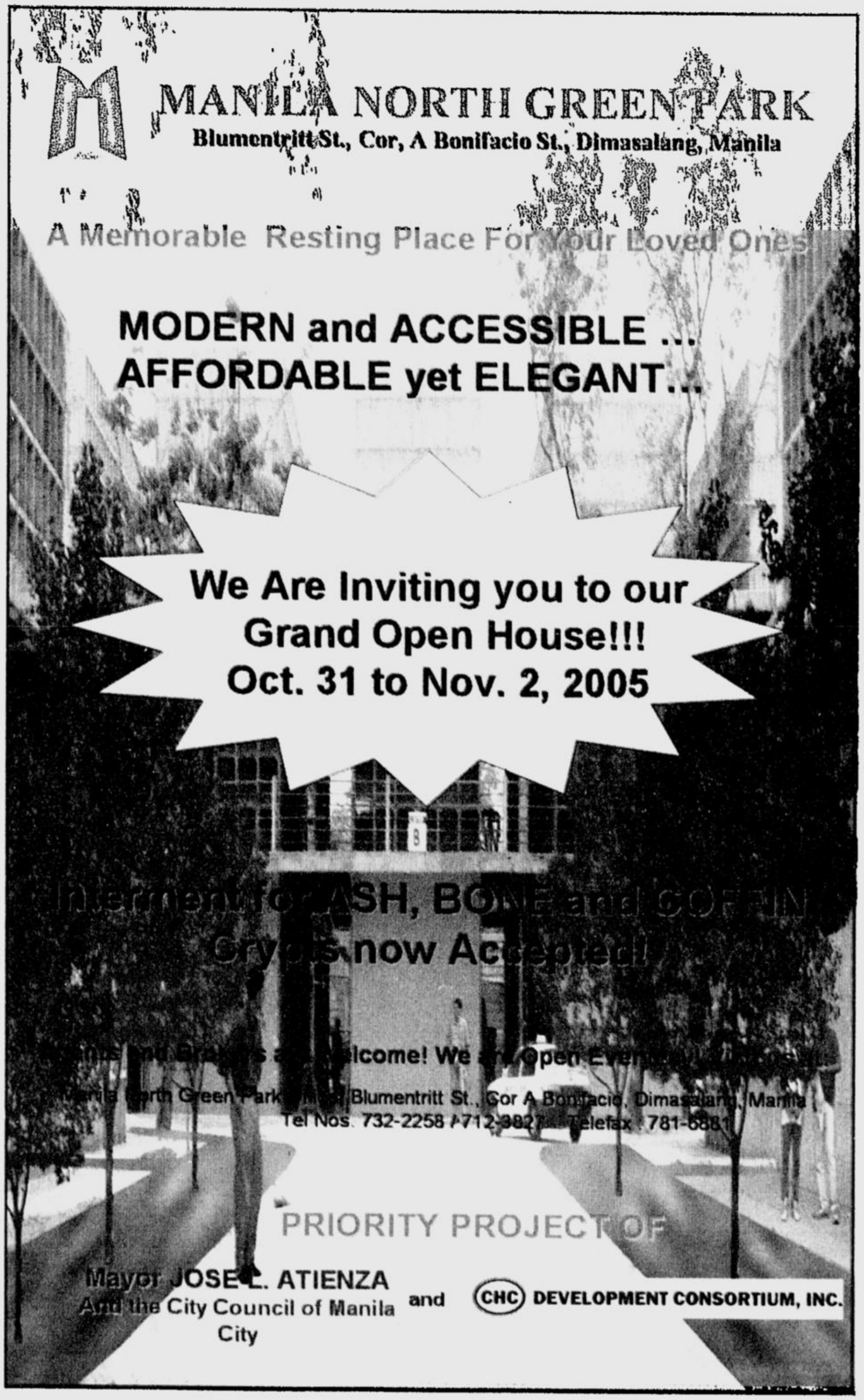

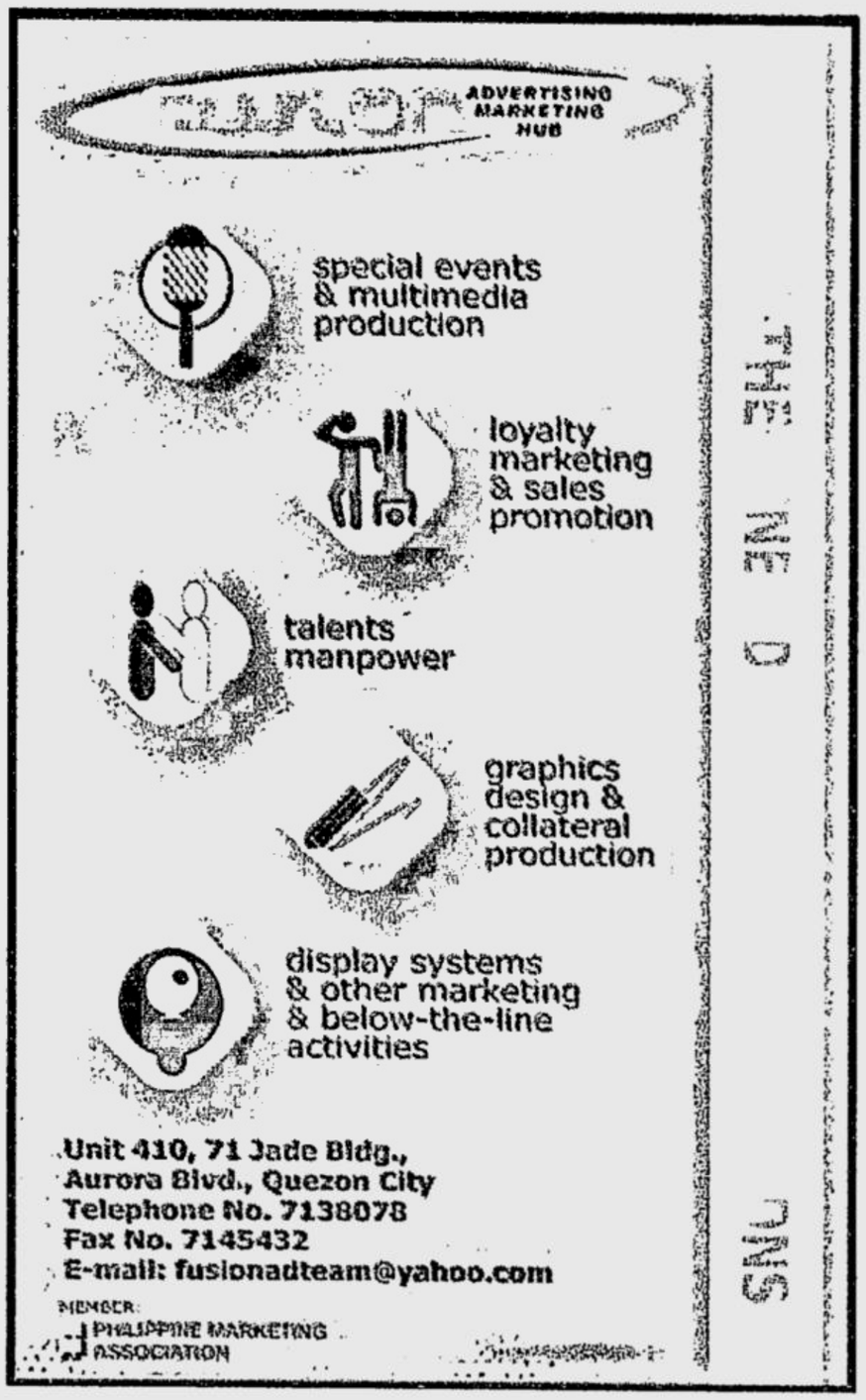

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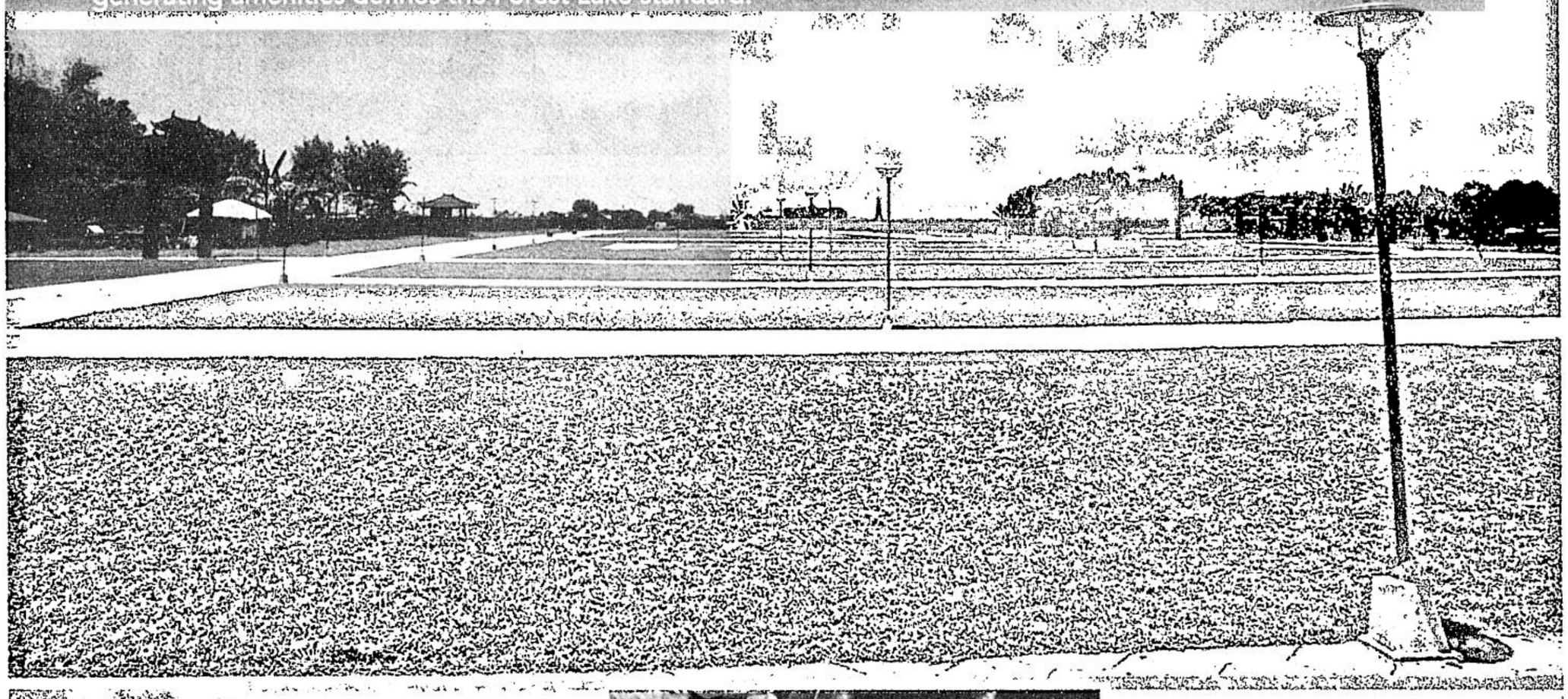

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sunday INQUIRER magazine

Michael Williams Wants to Make a Difference in Philippine Theater—Even if it Means Tilting at Windmills

by Cora Llamas
photograph by Ryan Lim

ANY of his friends and peers had gone the way of the Exodus, but in both waves of the artistic diaspora—"Miss Saigon" in 1989 and the years that followed, as well as Hong Kong Disneyland in 2005—thespian Michael Williams elected to stay at home. It is a decision that has baffled some denizens in the Philippine theater community since, after playing Lunta in the West End's "The King and I" in 1991, he could have written his own ticket and made his own name in the London circuit.

"Why did I stay? Why be a poor starving artist in a Third World country?" Williams waxes philosophically, his tongue not quite in cheek. Obviously, it is not the first time he has heard the question. He answers by asking back: "But in my own little sphere, why accept mediocrity? Why accept this play on just this level when you can push it to be the best?"

Just for a moments, Williams echoes the own heartfelt cries of the titular dual character he is playing in Repertory Philippines' "The Man of La Mancha," which will open first week of November. The aged knight Don Quixote has become synonymous with an idealist gliding at windmills, but it is his creator, novelist, and alter-ego Miguel de Cervantes who pays the price for his beliefs when he faces (at least in the play) the Inquisition.

Williams pauses for a moment and then turns to the script to quote what may be Cervantes' most poignant lines in the play. "When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies? Perhaps to be too practical is madness. To surrender dreams, this may be madness. To seek treasure where there is only trash. Too much sanity may be madness. But maddest of all—to see life as it is, and not as it should be!"

He was a "Miss Saigon" original cast member working actor on the West End, but he chose to come home and stay despite the exodus of artists to foreign lands. Indeed, one of the country's most brilliant stage actors has much in common with the noble, idealistic Don Quixote he is set to play on stage

This Pole Vaulter Reached Unexpected Heights and is Still Going Higher, p.3 • Pages From A Mother's Heart, p.5

Michael...*from page 1*

Ask Williams what is theater "as it should be" in the Philippines, assuming time, money, and political will were not a problem, and he has a ready answer. The much-travelled actor, who says he has fallen in love with the respect for life and cleanliness in Thailand, would promote cultural shows with a package tour of the Philippines. "I would produce. Probably put up my own travel agency, create an itinerary, showcase the beauty of the Philippines and then end up in Manila with a really good theater show. I'd market it to the region." Then, a few seconds later, that famous face, that is probably one of the most expressive in the industry, breaks in frustration, "Why isn't it being done here? Why?"

West End demystified

The Philippines is his home, and its theater community has his heart. His one year playing a cover (or an actor who does several bit roles at the same time AND replaces someone who is absent) in "Miss Saigon" had "demystified" the West End theater for him. "Before 'Saigon,' the West End was a far, far dream. We were so hungry for all the materials, we'd read the playbills, we'd listen to the soundtrack—and finally you meet these people and perform with them. They have the Rolls-Royce of sets and the best imaginable stage equipment. It was a dream come true." Soon enough, the dream hardened into reality. "I realized that we theater people all over the world are the same. We have the same hang-ups, dreams, hopes, and desire to express ourselves."

Versatile:As Ebeneezer Scrooge

"Saigon" and "King and I" also gave him a fresh perspective on his place in the Philippine theater community; by that time, Williams had been in Rep for seven years, graduating from chorus parts to supporting roles. It's hard to believe that the actor who played Tartuffe and would later wow audiences in "Les Miserables" in 1993 had been turned down during auditions by Rep founders Baby Barrredo and Zenaida Amador three times.

His West End experience "validated the work that we've done and the things that we've learned. We were worried that it was gonna be tough; but when we got there, it was the easiest thing in the world. There are pressures like not knowing whom you are going to cover for 15 minutes before curtain opens. But I was doing only one show, while in the Philippines I had to rehearse in the afternoon and perform in the evening."

That was putting it lightly. More than 10 years ago, a then robust economy allowed the English-language theater company to put up two musicals and 10 plays a year. For its actors, that meant non-stop work seven days a week with rehearsals in the afternoon and shows in the evening. Nor did Williams just confine himself to performances. He'd put posters on the walls, cut tickets, build props—all for the love of the stage.

Initial friction

It was a passion that his loved ones did not understand at that time. Williams candidly admits that dropping out of his computer studies had initially caused friction with his parents. ("I don't say that often because I don't want to set that kind of an example.") His father, in particular, who was a marketing executive, could not understand why his youngest son would sleep up to lunch time. What bought him time and space was his mother's intervention and argument that young Michael would eventually outgrow acting and get it out of his system. He never did—despite shoes that were falling apart, the daily walk from the old Rep office in Buendia to the Insular Life Auditorium, a perpetual daily wardrobe of shirts and jogging pants, and funding that could be spared only for food.

"Saigon" turned the tide. The media blitz on the original 15 actors who were chosen for the London premiere showed his parents their son's previously hidden artistic life. "The press releases told our little stories about working up to 3 in the morning. My father felt bad that he didn't know the kind of life I was living. That was when he found out." Later on, the senior Williams would keep the clippings and send them to his aunts.

Trouper: With Miguel Faustmann and Ana Bitong in "Lend Me A Tenor"

Paternal support would also mean immense sacrifice that manifested itself in respectful silence. Diagnosed with colon cancer at that time that Michael was auditioning for "Saigon," the senior Williams asked the rest of the family not to tell him, knowing that his youngest just might not leave should he get the part. Somehow, however, Michael got wind of it, and every phone call in his London flat left him with painful foreboding.

"I was running around like crazy," he reminisces, "Every single day was hell. Every time the phone would ring, I thought that this was it, I'd hear the news of his passing."

Williams would spend one more Christmas with his father. After he passed away, the son chose to return home to spend time with his widowed mother—but not before doing "The King and I." In retrospect, it could have been a tribute to his old man.

"He did those things so I could succeed at what I wanted to do. 'What is success for me?' I asked myself after the end of 'Saigon.' At that point in time, it was a lead role in the West End. Lunta came along, and I thought this was it. This is what I can bring with me."

Young industry

And despite the fact that he eats budget meals like everyone else and has to suffer a car breaking down once in a while, he has no regrets about staying. "I find the work here very, very exciting. It's a young industry here, and I could make a big difference. In London, I'd be another artist living in an industry that's already established." Another aspect of theater that gives him a lot of fulfillment is teaching, from the workshoppers made up of students and young professionals to special children in an acting class.

Williams' eye is already on the future. "These students are the ones who will grow up and occupy key positions in society. They will say that theater is good, they will want their kids to watch it, arrange for their children's schools to have it in their curriculum, and make watching it a social habit."

There was a time when Williams almost departed the stage, succumbing to pressures at home and the discipline of the craft pushing him beyond his limits. Amador tacitly made him change his mind by asking him to play one more part for Rep for the very last time. The play was "Ain't Misbehaving," the very first for which, he said, he received glowing reviews. "I worked my ass off until I was throwing up, dancing until I puked. I realized that there is something here for me, I am capable of certain things—and that, yeah, I am a stage performer."

That moment that he describes as "the correctness of it all, knowing this is where I belong" has never left him since. This theater knight has laid claim to his battlefields; let the windmills and the giants do their worst.

"The Man of La Mancha" runs at Onstage Greenbelt starting November 4. Call tel. no. 887-0710.

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WITTY REALIST PAINTINGS Jon Torres presents "*Tao Po*," a series of witty realist paintings on the life and pastimes of the ultra-rich and the urban poor in his first solo exhibit at the Pinto Art Gallery, 1 Sierra Madre Grandheights, Antipolo City until Nov. 18. In photo is "*Sa Mansyon ni* Johnny Tango," where Torres presents the life of a dance instructor in the midst of what appears to be a ribald party of socialites.

Poetry

Shadow

Having cleaned off the black kohl
that lines my eyes and wiped
the drizzly gloss that embalms
my pucker—I too am forced
to ogle at this morphed unknown,
gawking in the hallway mirror.
This is what I look like without makeup:
Eyes wide, cheeks bare—suddenly
I'm younger. Undefined, like unlined eyes.

Rifling through my sister's magazines,
I'm told by Chanel that vibrant and seductive
is the new Face of Fall. On page ninety-three
a makeup artist rubs ruby blush on a model's
cheeks for a "post-shag flush." Wine lips make
for a sophisticated woman. Silicone-based
foundations settle one's lines.
At the moment I have no lines
of which to speak.

Stage makeup is different—
even the lovers in the back row,
darkest corner, have to be able to see
your features so eyes don't blur
into nose doesn't blur into
mouth doesn't blur into—

Not that they're looking, anyway.
You'd like to believe it's because your eye
shadow is too glaring. It hurts just to look
at the two cherry streaks passing for lips.
Best not to let the mind wander
and visualize mouths blurring into
noses blurring into eyes—

Never mind. You can't see that far anyway;
the lights are bright, in your mind only the first
three rows can scrutinize your nose.
Inexperienced, onstage I find my voice
is softer than I intend. It comes out
that way daily, despite the lack of a script.

My everyday makeup—not much—
is a natural pretense: black liner, smudged;
Burt's Bees (Soothing. Cooling. Refreshing.
Contains beeswax) lip balm. Light gold
dust for shadow. It comes off
as the day progresses,
the sun sweltering and smearing.

Still flicking through the magazine:
Chanel again, an ad for crimson lipstick.
The girl is kissing her wrist as if there's nothing
in the world she'd rather caress other than
the two inches of skin on her arm.
Maybe she's been blinded by the flash,
maybe her eyes were closed
before she realized how foolish she looks.
She can't have the picture back
now that the camera's blinked, taken her.

Sometimes even I find that beautiful mouth
flickering, white teeth glittering, inviting
beyond maw and jaw, across lines and
lights, past the first three rows.

A turn of the page—it's Revlon now,
saying it's easy to look Just Like Stars
in the glossy pictures, mesmerizing.
A showcase of new products, just
open, click, brush, smooth on.
Just wait, see yourself transform.
Just Twist. Glide. Smile.

Josephine Anne A. Cariño

Tsubibong Paraiso

Kapansin-pansin na magkaiba
ng sando na damit ko sa
pang-kolehiyong uniporme niya.
Kung akin ay luma at binutas
ang kanyang suot naman
maputi at plantsado.

Ang balat sa katawan ko
pinaitim sa tapang ng araw
linublob sa pawis at grasa.
Samantala ang sa kanya
maputi, pang-aircon at sanay
sa mamahaling pabango.

Minsan lang kami magkita
kapag ang eskwela niya ay may perya
isang linggo bawat Oktubre.
Buong taon ko kung abangan
dahil doon lang kami nagsasama
at hindi sa ibang araw.

Ayan nga at eto na siya!
Tuwing may perya ay libre ang sakay niya
sa tsubibo na aking minamaneho
na ipinagkatiwala sa akin ng bayaw ko
Kaya naman walang sawa
sa pagsakay nakararami talaga
at pagkatapos at siya'y masaya na

Siya naman ang bahala sa akin.

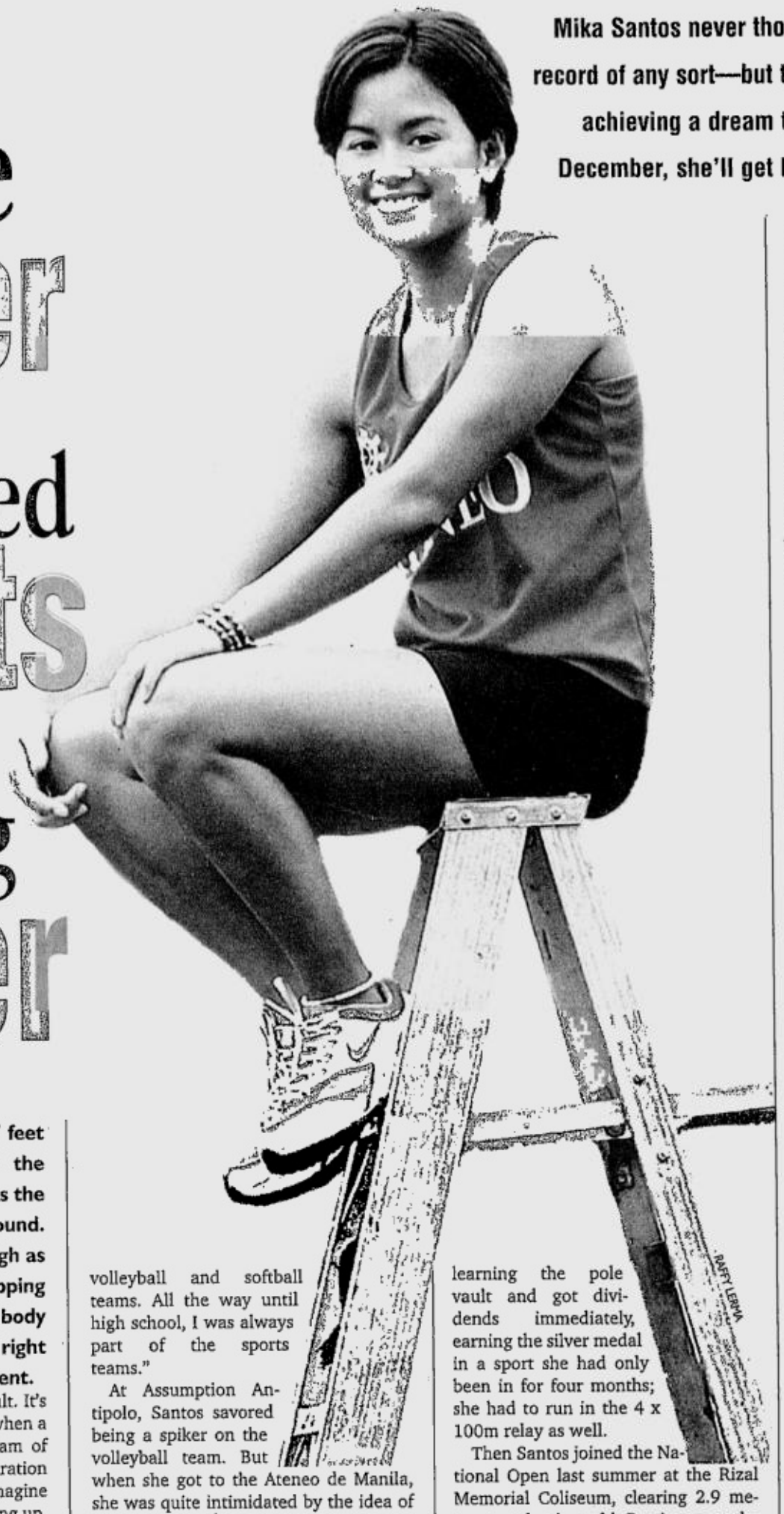
Dimpy Jazmines

ERRATUM: In last Sunday's Noteworthy feature "Diary of A Dog Model" (**SIM**, 16 October 2005), the author Banana (at left) inadvertently failed to mention that POWERBOOKS was a co-presentor of the Furry Tales fashion show held at SM Megamall last October 8 for the benefit of PAWS. Banana howls in regret at the omission. *-Ed*

by Ruel S. De Vera

This Pole Vaulter Reached Unexpected Heights and is Still Going Higher

Mika Santos never thought she could set a national record of any sort—but that's never stopped her from achieving a dream to represent the country. This December, she'll get her chance at the SEA Games



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICKY SANTOS

FIRST, there is the furious pounding of feet before the long, flexible pole strikes the ground; kinetic energy viciously kicks in as the body rises improbably high above the ground. Then, the body evens out, reaching as high as it will. Like an airborne Ace of Spades flipping over to win a hand, the legs fold, and the body seems to pause for just one moment, right above the bar, before the inevitable descent.

This is the split-second drama of the pole vault. It's all so busy and involved, that series of seconds when a pole vaulter must clear the bar and then dream of vaulting even higher. It is not a pedestrian aspiration and a very selective discipline. It is hard to imagine that a child consciously decides that upon growing up, he or she will take up the pole vault instead of gymnastics or riding horses.

Mika Santos certainly didn't ever think she would become a pole vaulter of all things. The 20-year-old Santos doesn't even look at herself as a jock, adding, "it's all very unexpected and it's all happening so fast."

Meteoric rise

What she's talking about is her literally meteoric rise as a Filipino athlete. Though she's only been competing in the pole vault for less than a year, the 5'3", 118-pound Santos is already holder of the Philippine record at 3.2 meters and now sets her sights even higher and hopes for a rousing run representing the country at the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games here in Manila.

Though she always thought of herself as someone comfortable outdoors, she never thought of herself as a jock or a professional athlete. She was born Mikaela Francesca Mallari Santos, the middle of three children to businessman Ricky Santos and part-time events organizer Maripi Santos. As a child, she was already very athletically gifted. "I was always running around when I was younger, rollerblading in the streets with my friends." And that of course turned swiftly into organized sports. "In grade school (at the Colegio de San Agustin), I was a gymnast and I was always part of the volleyball and softball teams. All the way until high school, I was always part of the sports teams."

At Assumption Antipolo, Santos savored being a spiker on the volleyball team. But when she got to the Ateneo de Manila, she was quite intimidated by the idea of trying out for the varsity volleyball team. Thinking that it wouldn't require too much adjustment, Santos went out for the track and field team instead, where her natural gifts became very useful.

Originally training as a sprinter, she ran the 100m and 200m races. But in her sophomore year, she decided to try something different. "I didn't really enjoy the sprints too much and I had a foot injury so I really couldn't run the sprints anymore," she explains. "Pole vault looked fun and it was different." There was no women's pole vault in the UAAP her freshman year but it was to be included in her second year. "People told me that in pole, you have to run and jump and it's useful to have a background in gymnastics," she notes. "Perfect!"

Just as Santos was learning the basics, a coach with the national team saw and approached her. "I guess he saw something in what I was doing that just looked natural. He said he already saw the potential." In last year's University Athletic Association of the Philippines track competition, Santos simply plunged into learning the pole vault and got dividends immediately, earning the silver medal in a sport she had only been in for four months; she had to run in the 4 x 100m relay as well.

Then Santos joined the National Open last summer at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, clearing 2.9 meters to take the gold. But it was at the Hong Kong Inter-City Athletics Challenge in July, while competing for the Ateneo contingent, that she cleared the bar at 3.20 meters and in the process set the national record.

High standard

Her trajectory has remained true, and she savors a new opportunity as she has been named part of the national team taking to the track and field at the SEA Games. But she won't be stopping there. She plans to go even higher, literally, as the international requirement to compete in the pole vault is to clear 3.5 meters. "I never even thought of the national team before this," she says. "If you put me in other countries, I'm just a beginner—that's a beginner's record. That's why I want to promote the sports so that our standards could get higher. And if I make the national team, I'd like to be qualified for international meets, *kasi diyahe naman, di ba?*"

"One of the goals is to promote the sport. Pole vaulting is like an extreme sport, one of the most difficult sports and certainly, in track, pole vault is the most fun to watch. I'm hoping to invite more people into the sport, more girls in particular." And yet despite all the preparations, Santos really is not defined by her discipline. A quiet thinker on her own, Santos is a bit awed by the sport's demands on her time. "I've never had to dedicate so much time to a single thing and now, in college, three hours of every day is dedicated to track." She describes getting better at the sport as "a matter of understanding the physics of it. And it's recommended that they keep up their gymnastic training because it helps. It's heavy on conditioning work."

And since she already feels so "overexposed to sports" during the week, she tries hard not to do anything active during the weekends. When she has the weekend to get away, she hops, skips and jumps to the beach. "That's my passion," she says with a broad smile. There's the matter of her other hobby: "My favorite thing to do is scuba dive and I want to advance my training there after college." She has received her first license and hasn't been out in the water as much as she wants to. The girl who had dreamt of becoming a vet also loves spending time with her Golden Retriever, Ralph.

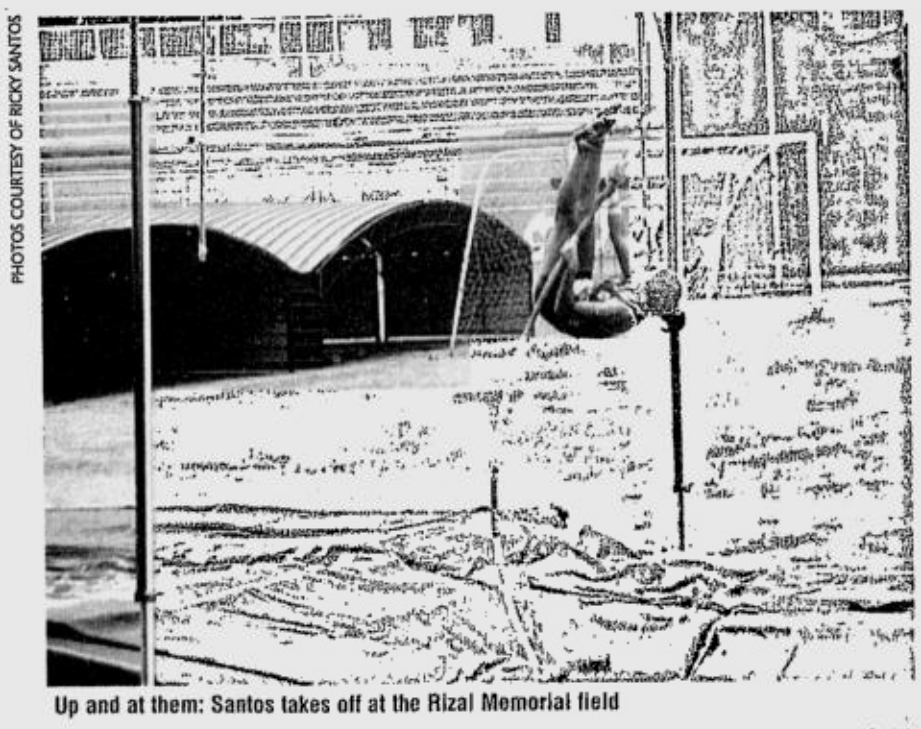
Love for adventure

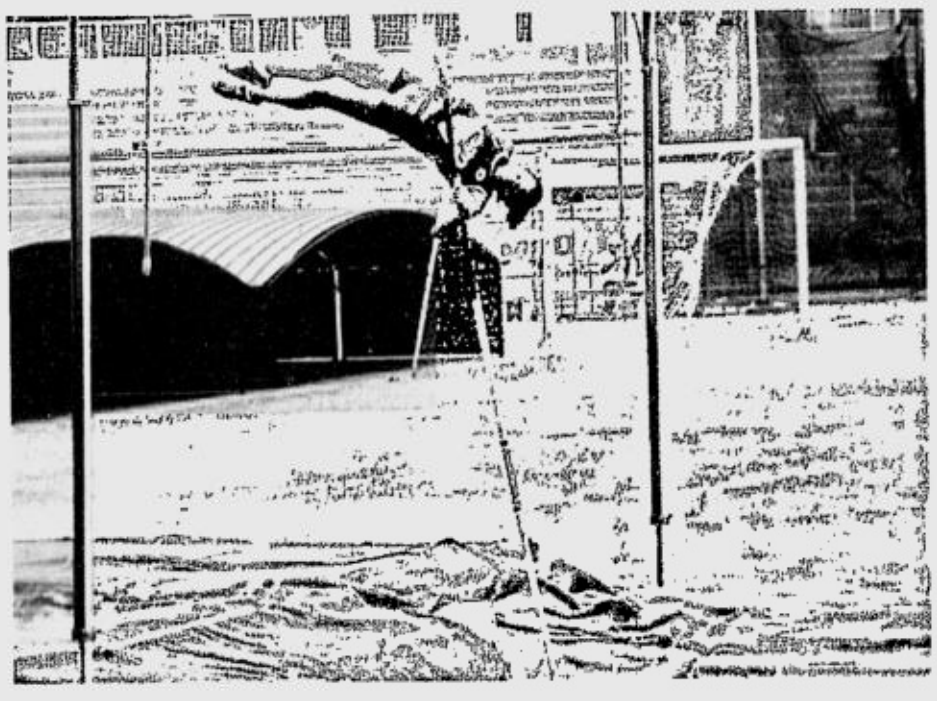
That also slots right in with the things she likes to do. "Not because I want to master them, but there are lots of things I still wanna try," Santos says. "Like last summer, I joined an adventure race in Antipolo. It's more of having the experience of trying something. I'm just open to anything. I love adventure."

She misses being able to live a usual student's life. "I wanted to quit because I was missing out on everything but then I discovered pole, I tried it and it actually gave me a reason to look forward to training, as it was something new. Little did I know it would take me this far. So I'm really just riding along, taking all the opportunities because they won't come again."

Then again, there are the things that would keep any 20-year-old exceedingly busy. There's the matter of finishing her degree in BS Management majoring in Communications Technology; she's a junior now. Of course, not every 20-year-old is faced with the question of whether or not to keep pole vaulting after graduation. "Not all my life," she says incredulously. "After college, if it's still there, I'll still do it. But I'm looking forward to my life after college because I can do everything I want."

Meanwhile, she continues her intense training, getting more intense as the days of the SEA Games approach, ready to be propelled into the air, above the rest. "I'm honored but also nervous and pressured," she says. There is still more soul to squeeze for this sky-seeking supergirl. "I didn't even know anything about the pole vault until I got into it. It's so surreal. Sometimes I wake up, and just say to myself, 'Oh my God.'" In her dream, Mika Santos feels the wind, watches the flag wave, and imagines herself going higher and higher still, beyond limitation, beyond expectation.





Up and at them: Santos takes off at the Rizal Memorial field

What She Did for Art

She was a psychologist and entrepreneur who found her true calling running a vibrant gallery that showcases the best of Philippine art. As Hiraya celebrates its 25th anniversary, Didi Dee recalls the ups and downs of a life at the service of the muse

Artwatch

by Agni (Agnes) Prieto

OUTSIDE, cars roar, horns blare, and the human traffic of Ermita assails the senses. A step transports one into another world—the all-white sanctuary of the multi-sensory experience that is Hiraya Gallery on United Nations Avenue. A special blend of aromatic oils wafts gently, otherworldly music is heard, and on the walls, the paintings.

Didi Dee, Hiraya Gallery owner whose other world this is, was going to be a psychologist after graduation, but something happened on the way to the therapist's couch, and she became a curator instead. At the prodding of her grandmother, she took over one family business, Modern Frames, a workshop-cum-sales office, and transformed it into an art gallery—Hiraya (Imagination). Today, 25 years since 1980, when the first exhibit was launched, she looks back.

"When I first started, I didn't know a thing about art," she muses, dressed in a simple white blouse and a pair of saffron pants acquired in Chiang Mai on her latest meditation trip to the monastery there. Her cropped hair, which in the past flashed hot red, is today a sedate brown. "Initially, I had art professionals who managed the gallery while I self-taught. I watched a lot of cinema, which is the summation of all visual arts, foreign movies and Filipino flicks. I traveled to immerse myself in museums and trained myself to appreciate beauty."

Therapist and nurturer

Since 1980, Hiraya has launched a total of 298 exhibits here and abroad, the launching pad and home of many established artists such as Lee Aguinaldo, Jerry Araos, Neil Doloricon, Alfredo Esquillo,Jr., Robert Feleo, Karen Flores, Peter de Guzman, Mark Justiniani, John Frank Sabado. The gallery covers the richness of Philippine art in the works of the late Santiago Bose, Elmer Borlongan, Jojo Legaspi, and Mario de Rivera, among the total of 25 artists that have exhibited here. To them, Didi has been more than a gallery curator—she has been therapist and nurturer, erstwhile mother and some-time taskmaster.

The gallery space has been created and re-created over and over to project whoever the artist on exhibit is. There have been classic tea ceremonies, disco dances, arias and, at this particular exhibit, the sheen and patina of old wood in classic design. Something is always in motion, something afoot, with Didi's Aquarian energy.

"What I did for art!" Didi exclaims. "It takes a certain madness to get into the artist's psyche. I can ride with him to the edge when the spirit and the work move me." Sometimes she can be quixotic, as revealed in the show "Rendezvous *Avec Sens,*" into which she plunked millions to showcase the designs of an African artist, and around which she created theater, dance, music and food (by a chef flown in from France), and which was presented at the cavernous World Trade Center in June 2000. Another memorable launch, during which the gallery was closed for two months, literally stopped traffic as she mounted a stage right on busy UN Avenue to present an esoteric *butoh* (Japanese dance) performance complete with a practically naked male dancer gyrating on a ledge, discordant sounds and a Japanese actress in a gown of wire and strings.

Then there were the two months when gallery visitors were confronted by the effigy of the artist Jojo Legaspi's mother sitting in the middle of the room, 13 daggers stuck all over her body. "At that time, no one appreciated the artist," Didi recalls. "Today, he is a most-sought after visual artist, and even his charcoal drawings sell for dollars."

Unspoken dreams

Part of the madness she must take on are the below-the-belt jabs, the back-stabbing, the rank ingratitude that are, according to her, part and parcel of this world. "Sometimes, I'm Sisyphus, pushing up the rock on that steep mountain only to have it fall back. I can get so tired, too. I have learned to be creative about pushing it back up, that rock—sometimes diagonal right, sometimes straight up. But I always push it back, no matter. I always give 105 percent to whatever I do."

In the quarter of a century that Didi has managed the gallery, she retains in her heart a passion for people. It is this inherent interest that has kept Hiraya going, she admits. "It's been tough. The Philippine art scene can be bloody sometimes, but I like to see beyond the artwork and the person that created it into the creative process. Each artist carries a uniqueness inherent in his humanity. I always look for this." In this way, the gallery is not just a shop, a purveyor for beautiful objects, but a place of unspoken dreams and visions for the larger society.

Apart from this preoccupation as creative mother to artists, Didi is also mother to the four children of her partner. She bakes the best batches of oatmeal-raisin cookies (which she learned to do for the kids), wakes up at 4:30 a.m. to cook breakfast, prepares their *baon* and drives them to school. She goes to meet the principal when the school authorities call. And she is there to cheer them at soccer matches. She recalls her own happy childhood, where she "felt loved—otherwise, how could I give?" She herself went to Assumption in Manila, St. Theresa's Baguio and the University of the Philippines for her Psychology course, from which she graduated cum laude.

One favorite activity outside of curating is going to the wet market, choosing fresh fish and vegetables which she herself cooks for friends and family. In contrast to the worldly sophistication of an art world figure, there is a part of Didi that is homey, though she is at the same time a bon vivant. Dad Lawrence Dee opened the first steak house in Manila, Chuck Wagon, and a French restaurant called Le Chevalier. Her hospitality is boundless—she will share her wine and Gruyere with much heart.

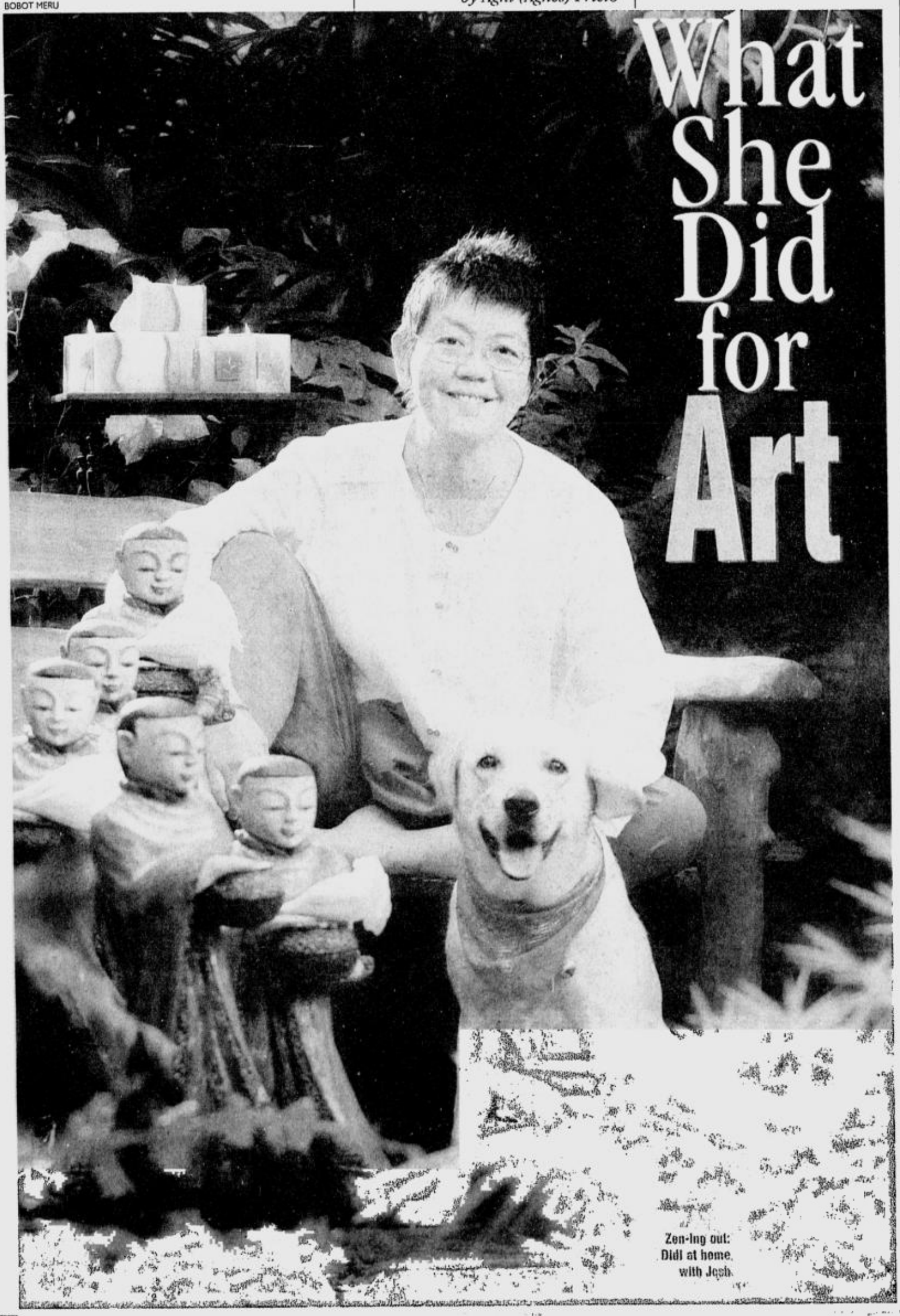
Relaxing hobby

She also cherishes the special time spent on backpack trips around the Southeast Asian region and China with her partner, hunting for hostels and bringing home fragrant exotic teas and teacups, incense and rare plants which she cares for, regularly pruning and watering away in her garden—another hobby which relaxes her. Josh, the Labrador she gifted the kids with, and cats Josie and Petunia complete her home.

Didi takes the gallery beyond its business function over the past 25 years, concluding that art is the crucible of a country's angst, its pain, its violence, its ecstasies. "Social realism as it happened in the '70s is dead. I have seen nothing that captures our present situation of 'indecent exposure.' Remember the *bomba* flicks of the '70s? The flesh-baring shocked and disgusted many. Today, it is no longer flesh that is bared, but the dearth of basic values, the death of decency. Everything has a price these days.

"What the arts need to show is inspiration, vision—a way out of this morass," she continues. "That is the ultimate responsibility of the artist—to uplift, and perhaps, show alternatives to build on, not to destroy. Healing has to happen in this country, and the artist can start that with his work." On that note, Didi explains her vision for the next level of Hiraya—a Wellness Center which encompasses healing and growth of a totality of body, mind and spirit. There is already a regular gathering of kindred spirits—healers, meditators, alternative practitioners, and always, artists—who find a sanctuary here, in the haven Didi Dee has made, where wounds can be healed and new vision birthed.

BOBOT MERU



Zen-ing out: Didi at home with Josh

text and photograph
by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Pages from A Mother's Heart

As much ode as chronicle, Fanny A. Garcia's book about her autistic son Erick also marks her return to her calling as a writer

NOT everyone has to face the challenge of being a mother to an autistic only child. Not every mother of an autistic only child is given the gift of writing so that she can share with others what it's like.

The book Fanny A. Garcia wrote is like no other. It reaped awards, yes, and while that affirmed once more the writer in her, it more than affirmed her as a mother.

"Erick Slumbook: *Paglalakbay Kasama Ang Anak Kong* Autistic" (Journey with My Autistic Son) is a journey that begins and ends in the heart of a mother. It is a testament to Fanny's love—unconditional, unending, undying—for her son, Erick. It is about him, but it is also very much about her and how the two of them are moving on in life. It is about so many like them so that the world may learn and understand.

"Erick was almost four years old when a developmental pediatrician confirmed that he was autistic," Fanny begins. "I immediately decided to write a journal about him. I wanted to monitor his autism, I wanted to know how slow or how fast he changed. But because I was the one writing and because I am his mother, the journal was not just a documentation on Erick but also of what I thought and felt—sadness, joy, worry, fear—about Erick and about other people because of Erick."

Wild ocean of emotions

If that sounds like the calm after the storm, it's because the book was written after 17 years of raising an almost non-verbal autistic, and riding the highs and lows in the wild ocean of emotions few parents have ever experienced.

"I began with three notebooks," Erick's mother narrates. "One was named Mountain Notebook, another was Blues Notebook, and the third was The Journal Notebook."

Mountain contained the highs, while Blues contained the lows. The Journal contained a mix of observations that were neither happy nor sad.

Then the three notebooks became one. Writes Fanny in Filipino: "Eventually there was only one notebook: after all, the situations and happenings were interrelated, and Erick is really one entire whole."

Fanny Garcia writes in contemporary Filipino that is engaging and easy even for those not entirely comfortable in the language. To read her is to listen with the ear of one's heart.

But who is Fanny Garcia? Besides being Erick's mom, she is also a teacher, award-winning writer (fictionist, essayist, scriptwriter), editor, researcher and translator. She heads the Pilipino Department of De La Salle University (DLSU)-Manila.

Fanny majored in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines. While finishing her doctorate, her mentors took special notice of her dissertation, that was based on her Erick journals. Fanny's opus earned plaudits as "*namumukod tanging disertasyon sa programa ng malikhaing pagsulat* (outstanding dissertation in the creative writing program)."

That was how "Erick Slumbook" came to be, Fanny tells the INQUIRER. It is the fifth of the books Fanny has authored and/or edited and the most different. It received the 2005 National Book Award in the biography/autobiography category from the Manila Critics Circle, and the Saint Febres Cordero Award for outstanding book/monograph from DLSU-Manila.

First in the world

It is also the first book in the Philippines written by a parent of an autistic, and probably the first in the world written in a slumbook narrative format.

The book includes journal entries starting in 1991, reflections, photos, Erick's scribbles and doodles. The exchange of letters between Fanny and a fellow parent who also teaches special children could rival the letters in the classic "*Pagsusulatan ng Dalawang Binibini na si Urbana at Feliza*" (1864) by Padre Modesto de Castro.

Why a slumbook? "Blame it on Laura Esquivel, author of the bestseller 'Like Water for Chocolate,'" Fanny explains. Esquivel used recipes as the take-off for her novel.

Some literary critics consider Fanny's work as creative non-fiction. Fanny sometimes fancies it as a post-mod-

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GUYITO, the official mascot of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER, takes center-stage as the newspaper marks its 20th anniversary in December. Festivities will be highlighted by the unveiling of 20 Guyito carabao sculptures based on the character created by chief cartoonist Jess Abrera, and translated into the three-dimensional version by sculptor Juan Sajid Imao.

The INQUIRER has invited 20 of the country's veteran and emerging artists to paint the fiberglass sculptures based on the anniversary theme, "The Power of Knowing." They are: Malang, Bencab, Kidlat Tahimik, Fernando Sena, Salvador Convocar, Soler, Steve Santos, Caña, Lydia Velasco, Ernesto Patricio, Bing Siochi, Roel Obemio, Tres Roman, Wilfredo Offemaria, Bin Samonte, Jef Samonte, Romeo Forbes, Rex Tationghari, Anton Balao and Jack Salud.

The carabao sculptures will be donated to 20 selected cities/municipalities nationwide, to be chosen based on their high schools' rankings in the Regional Finals of the Quiz Bee Competition. Miniature versions of the Guyito sculptures will be given to the top 20 companies that have supported the INQUIRER in the past two decades.

From January to May 2006, INQUIRER representatives will visit the 20 selected schools/cities to turn over the sculptures. In addition, an INQUIRER Campus Journalism Workshop will be held in each school. The one-day lecture/workshop will feature INQUIRER reporters, editors and columnists who will discuss specific journalism topics and share their expertise on effective writing, editing and layouting. The number of student participants will be determined by the school's available venue. Delegates will be given a handbook on journalism styles, methods, ethics and best practices.

INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said the complement of anniversary activities underscores the need for knowledge. In marking its 20th year, INQUIRER particularly hopes to motivate students to become achievers. "Through these projects, we hope to inspire the young to value reading and use it as a tool to attaining their dreams."

Sunday INQUIRER Magazine profiles the artists who have made the Guyito undertaking possible.

Lydia Velasco
The Beast of Burden as a Schoolchild

This late-blooming artist's grandchild is the inspiration behind her unique take on Guyito

by Constantino C. Tejero

THE BABY carabao Guyito has become iconic to many Filipinos, so it's only fitting that when Lydia Velasco was asked to paint the fiberglass sculpture of the INQUIRER mascot with her design interpretation, she embellished it with Philippine iconic images.

On its body she has painted in acrylic two familiar icons fused into one: the Mother and Child and the *dalagang Pilipina*. (Just as familiar is the artist's rendition of the brown-skinned, thick-lipped female—a blend of Gauguin, Amorsolo and Anita Magsaysay-Ho, but strong-boned and fleshier.)

Here a mother is imparting to her child knowledge from a book she's holding, and the child happens to be a *dalagita*, a daughter budding into maidenhood. The overfamiliarity of the image at once communicates motherhood statements about nurture at home and innocence opening up to wisdom.

Velasco explains: "The theme given to me is the power of knowledge, so that's what I'm trying to say through this imagery—that knowledge is first nourished at home. That's why the caring of the mother is very important in the education of a child."

The carabao mascot itself has been transformed into another iconic image. The artist has made it up to resemble a schoolchild, complete with painted school uniform of polo shirt and denim shorts, shoes and socks, pad of paper and box of Crayola sticking out of its trouser pocket.

The last detail, which the artist added for a 3D effect, is actual crayons and pad paper in an actual pocket glued on the sculpture's rump, then covered with acrylic emulsion.

Symbols and signifiers

"I made him a Grade 2 pupil, with the name Guyito V. Matalino written on his pad paper," says Velasco. "Because a child in Grade 2 possesses a certain innocence and that yearning for knowledge that a child in Grade 3 or Grade 4 doesn't have."

She also uses two iconic floral motifs throughout the piece. The side half of Guyito's body is strewn with white sampaguita, the national flower, maybe to symbolize a people's purity of heart or purpose—while orange bird-of-paradise is scattered on the sculpture's base, maybe to suggest a paradisiacal existence in one's native land?

The whole piece is divided into planes of red, green and blue. Anyone's free to attach respective meaning to the first two, but the last hue—gradating from cobalt to turquoise—obviously suggests the INQUIRER masthead. Improbably, the carabao has turned rosy-cheeked (in the pink of health?).

Velasco recounts that day in July when the white fiberglass piece was delivered to her studio in Marikina: "It was big, its base wider than our door, and three men had to carry it. When I first saw him, I was delighted by him—so cute! So I made him cuter still, put blush-on on his face, stripes of metallic blue on his horns, blue polka dots on his white socks."

(So that's why we have this carabao that's rotund and rubicund.)

She had to prime the fiberglass surface with enamel paint, for the acrylic to stick fast. It took her about three weeks to finish painting the piece.

Theme and personality

Velasco took up Fine Arts, major in Painting and Advertising, at the University of Santo Tomas.

For 20 years she worked as art direc-

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Ernesto Patricio
Making Guyito a Truly Multicultural Animal

Painting his colorful, arabesque-adorned 'Saribaw's' flanks was like painting the Sistine Chapel

by Constantino C. Tejero

A FAT carabao stayed for over a month in Ernesto Patricio's garage in Las Piñas. For several days he was pondering what to do with it.

This was the fiberglass cast sculpture of Guyito, mascot of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER, that came to Patricio's yard as a white and blank entity on which he, as one of 20 selected artists, had been asked to imprint his interpretative design.

After hitting on the idea of a hybrid beast, he spent over two weeks painting the sculpture with acrylic.

"It is resin-based, and the foundation is fiberglass, so that's the only one that will stick *talaga*," he explains of his choice of medium. "If it's oil, it will peel off like plastic."

He calls his hybrid baby "Saribaw" (a compound of *sarimanok*, the mythical bird of Maranao art, and *carabao*). It is embellished with a multicolor tattoo motif dominated by blue and orange.

The animal's rotund body has been divided into two color harmonies—the left side covered in a warm harmony of red, orange and yellow, and the right side in blue, green and violet—to signify the country's wet and dry seasons.

Patricio's design is derived from Islamic art: the hydra motif of circular forms, swirls and curlicues of the *okir*, and the flowing calligraphic strokes from the *alibata*, that ancient Indo-Arabic alphabet used by our ancestors. The total look he describes as "arabesque *na alanganin*."

But this Guyito is actually multicultural. On its muzzle are painted two very familiar shapes, the Peace and Love signs from the hippie era ringing each nostril, while its face is bedecked like in Mexican fiestas. On our proto-Malayan origins then, the artist has added our American and Hispanic colonial influences.

Origins and influences

Contemplating his finished work, the artist says it looks lovelier when varnished. But this carabao should stay indoors as acrylic fades faster when exposed to the elements. Even then, it should be retouched twice a year to retain those vivid hues.

Patricio, 61, took up Fine Arts, major in Art Education, at the University of the East. Among his favorite artists are the French Impressionists and Dali, Picasso, Federico Alcuaz, and three National Artists—Botong Francisco, Vicente

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This Week

Art

False Relation, recent works by Pablo Biglang-awa Jr. until Oct. 25 at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, G/F Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City. For details, call 817-7895.

Colors of Life, modern paintings depicting the celebrations and essence of life in acrylic and oil by visual artist Romeo E. Gutierrez until Oct. 23 at the Art Circle Gallery, Art Plaza, Shangri-La Mall.

Rainscape, a solo exhibit by Cobie Cruz melding rain and landscape at Finale, 4/F LaO Center, Pasay Road, Makati until Oct. 26.

Trans-, an outdoor exhibit of four large-scale abstract sculptures done in polychromed metal by JPalencia at the Greenbelt 4 Pebble Park, Makati City until Oct. 30.

"*Salamat Po, Ninong*" by Jo-Ann Bereber-Gando, one of the designs for Museo Pambata's 2005 edition Christmas cards

Music

Gary Lewis and the Playboys will hold a series of concerts billed **Gary Lewis and the Playboys-Live in Manila.** The concert kicks off at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 28, to be followed by a show at the Manila Hotel on Oct. 29 and at Angeles City, Pampanga on Oct. 30. It will bring back all the greatest hits of Gary Lewis and the Playboys in the '60s including "This Diamond Ring." Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets, Araneta Coliseum Box Office and at the Manila Hotel.

Character Building Foundation Inc., a non-stock, nonprofit organization that advocates strong positive Filipino character as the foundation of a progressive nation through education, will hold a fundraising concert, **Say It With Music**, to celebrate its third year. The concert will bring together chief executive officers on Nov. 4 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditrorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Other performers include Pinky Marquez, Kristian Lei, Bayanihan Dance Co. and the Penthouse Dancers. For inquiries, call 890-5321.

Onstage

Contemporary dance choreographers pay tribute to women poets in celebration of the Centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines in **Ars Poetica**, an evening of dance and poetry, on Oct. 23, 8 p.m. at Dance Forum Space, 38 West Avenue. Tickets at P150 with discounted tickets at P100 for students.

Atbp

October Events at Powerbooks. Oct. 26: PAWS Book Club, 6 p.m., Powerbooks Greenbelt; Oct. 28, 6 p.m., Powerbooks Greenbelt: Maverick Vision International seminar on Personality Development Part 2; Oct. 27, 1-5 p.m., Powerbooks Greenbelt: Business One seminar on Customer Service for Medical Institutions; Oct. 28, 6 p.m., Powerbooks Megamall: Danton Remoto launches a new horror book, "Afraid"; Oct. 29, 1 p.m., Powerbooks Greenbelt: Dr. Nick Matias launches a new book that helps businessmen improve their training skills; Oct. 29, 6 p.m., Powerbooks Greenbelt: Celia Diaz-Laurel launches a book about former vice president Doy Laurel.

October Bazaars. Quezon City residents can spice up their gimiks with the daily bazaar Eastwood Tiangge Corner at Athena Plaza, East City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, QC until Oct. 31. Shop@the-fort resumes on Oct. 29 and 30 at the NBC Tent with a wide array of food products, toys, garments and other gift items. Check out the bargains at Shop@Le Pavillion on Oct. 23 at the Metropolitan Park, Edsa corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Museo Pambata's 2005 edition of Christmas cards is now available in four cheerful designs of charming lanterns, colorful gifts, glistening lights, and children singing the happy tunes of the season. Each card comes with a detachable book marker to promote the love for books and reading. The cards were designed by artists Robert Alejandro ("*Pasko*"), Jo-Ann Bereber-Gando ("*Salamat Po, Ninong*"), Curtiss Lim ("Noel") and Don Salubayba ("*Pamilya sa Totlong Gulong na Mundo*"). The cards can be purchased at the Museo Pambata Gift Shop along Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila available in packs of 10. For bulk orders, call 523-1797 to 98.

X-manila

Siyudad ng Antipolo Arts Guild (SINAG), Inc. celebrates arts in partnership with MMLDC Foundation, Inc., a development foundation center of Manuel M. Lopez in the exhibit, ***Ikalawang Pasinaya***, with the theme "Bracing Development and Cooperation through Arts" until Oct. 28 at the Academic Hall Museum of the MMLDC, Km 27 Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City. For inquiries, call Amor at 632-8111.

This Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Kuliat Foundation, Inc. is sponsoring **Pamangan Fiesta 2005**, a sumptuous lunch buffet of traditional Pampango dishes for the establishment of the first culinary museum in the country. It will be held at the 1860s bahay na bato house Bale Herencia on Sto. Rosario St, just a hundred meters away from the Holy Rosary Parish Church. All the traditional Pampango dishes will be donated by local residents, with the recipes culled from each family's well-guarded secrets. Tickets at P500 each on a first-come, first-served basis. A guided heritage tour of old houses and the Center for Kapampangan Research will be available for those interested. For details, contact Blessie Aquino at (045) 887-4703.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

"Ars Poetica" goes onstage at Dance Forum Space

Pinoy Nga!

Statistics Office

The Beast ...from page 6

tor for some of the biggest advertising firms in the country, until she put up with a friend the photography studio Lightmoves Photo Design. A late bloomer, she painted full-time only 10 years ago, when she was already in her 50s.

Among her favorite artists are El Greco, Gauguin, Danny Dalena, Magsaysay-Ho. Clearly influenced by their works, her paintings of tropical maidens in incandescent hues are among the most recognizable pieces in the local art scene.

"Now I've gone minimalist," she says. "Whether viewers would accept my new art or not, I'm already happy because I've expressed myself. It's me, it's something from my soul."

She has two daughters who also became artists, Chie and Chigo, both of them doing painting and sculpture. In fact, the two and Chie's 10-year-old son assisted her in painting Guyito.

Her grandson, Velasco confides, was actually the inspiration for her Guyito. From conceptualization to finishing touches, this artwork is a product of a family endeavor.

The white original is, of course, a *tabula rasa*. There may be only one theme with varying interpretations, but it is the personality of the interpreting artist that really gives the sculpture character. Here, for example, we have a different Guyito, almost turned into a female, so buxom, fair and debonair.

The iconography of Guyito sounds either fanciful or academic, but that's what it is turning into now. If we can treat animals as if they were human, why, it's only natural that we'd treat an inanimate object like it were a living, breathing thing.

Making ...from page 6

Manansala and Fernando Amorsolo.

He considers Francisco his biggest influence, though. "He was an illustrator and graphic designer, like me, *kaya* idol *ko siya*," he adds.

Patricio was into commercial art and had worked as an overseas Filipino worker in Saudi. For 12 years he was art director of the print and publication department of Tihama, Saudi Arabia's biggest advertising firm at that time, until he resigned in 1995.

Styles and motifs

Back in the country, he started painting (oil, acrylic, watercolor) and sculpturing (clay, resin, bronze, on commission). His style moves between the non-objective and the surrealist.

In the 10 years he's been into full-time art-making, he has garnered several citations: twice runner-up and twice in the Top 5 in the annual Kulay sa Tubig watercolor competition, and twice honorable mention in the Art Association of the Philippines on-the-spot watercolor contest on the theme of environment. He also a member of the Saturday Group of Artists, the Tuesday Group, and Kulay Marikina.

The arabesque influence, such as a curvilinear motif and repetition of form, Patricio traces to what he had seen of Arabic art like tapestry during his stay in Saudi.

"Their calligraphic style is nearer to ours," he says. "And when I examined the *sarimanok* motif as propagated by [Guyito sculptor] Imao, I saw the relation... It's good to reintroduce that artistic style here."

And how was it working with Guyito?

"It's the normal challenge for a painter," says Patricio. "There's only one difference, though. While painting its stomach, I was lying on my back on the ground all the time. It was like painting the ceiling of a smaller Sistine Chapel."

Pages ...from page 4

ern novel. It would have read just as well if it were fiction.

"This is Erick's coming-out book," Fanny says, "and for me, my coming-back book, my coming back to writing."

For those involved with special children, it is a wellspring of information presented in a creative way.

And who is Erick?

Rony Frederick Garcia Talampas was born on June 20, 1987. Rony is the fusion of his father Roli's (UP social science professor) and mother Fanny's names. Frederick, the name of Roli's choice, is from German socialist Friedrich Engels.

Erick was the second and only survivor of five pregnancies. That is why Fanny addresses her only child as "*pinakamamahal kong panganay at bunso* (my most beloved first-born and last-born)" in her lengthy letter that serves as her book's epilogue, a heart-tugging mother's Magnificat.

Follow the journey

To follow the journey is to immerse oneself in Fanny's language of choice—Filipino. One cannot imagine the journey unfolding in any other way, just like Rizal's "*Mi Ultimo Adios*" cannot but be in Spanish.

Being told for the first time about her son's autism crushed Fanny. "*Gayunman, iyon pa rin ang mga araw at gabing iyak ako ng iyak. Umiiyak habang karga-karga si* Erick, *habang nakatingin sa kanya na natutulog o naglalarong mag-isa. Umiiyak sa mga kasama sa bahay. Umiiyak sa mga kaibigan. Umiiyak habang nagko-commute. Anumang oras kahit saan, nagiisa man o may mga kasamang kakilala man o hindi ay basta babalong na lang ang luha* (Still, those were the days and nights when I cried and cried. I cried while I was holding Erick, looking at him as he slept or played alone. I cried to people at home. I cried to my friends. I cried while commuting. Anytime, anywhere, while alone or with people I knew or didn't know, the tears just flowed)."

For the self-confessed "former atheist," prayers became a source of strength.

Fanny credits the people behind the Foundation for Autistic Children and Adults of the Philippines and the Autism Society of the Philippines, from which she drew support and encouragement.

Autism is generally defined as "a physical disorder of the brain that causes a lifelong developmental disability." Autism comes from the Greek word *autos* or self. Children with autism tend to live in their own private world, but therapy could minimize this tendency.

For a long time in the past, children who displayed autistic behavior were classified as schizophrenic. Behavioral scientists of yore thought it was a psychogenic disorder caused by parental maltreatment. But in the 1960s, US psychologist Bernard Rimland's research proved the old thinking wrong. Autism, he found out, was in fact a biological brain disorder.

Autistics are classified into: severely autistic, mildly autistic and high-functioning. The third type have "average nonverbal intelligence or better and with no physical or neurological disabilities." High-functioning autistics could finish college with honors and even pursue higher studies. There could be mental retardation in severe cases.

Autistics could either be verbal or nonverbal. Nonverbals could later become verbal or remain nonverbal for life.

Magic moment

Fanny remembers the time Erick first uttered the words Mama and Papa. It was a magic moment. Every new word was a jewel. "Never did Erick's vocabulary go past five or 10 words," Fanny says. "But this is not addition or a cumulative process, sometimes it turns out to be subtraction. Erick's vocabulary could vanish or he hides it. You just get surprised when one day you hear something from him."

Tall and muscular, Erick is now 18. He can scribble and point to things but he cannot verbalize. He can also follow instructions but can be hyper and agitated at times. He attends the New Horizons Center in Monte Vista, Quezon City.

Fanny muses: "To those who tell me, 'What a pity because he's so handsome', 'What a pity, why only one? You should have had more children,' I say to them, 'Believe it or not, I am contented with my child. Now I cannot imagine my life without him.'

"While I was carrying Erick in my womb I already loved him very much. I wanted so badly to have a child. I didn't know then that he would turn out to be autistic."

To Erick, the mother writes: "*Pero ngayo'y alam na alam na alam ko nang* autistic *ka, anak. At mula nang malaman ko, ang buhay ko ay waring isang* roller coaster ride *ng mga emosyon... Gayunman, sasabihin ko pa rin sa iyo nang buong katapatan, paulit-ulit at ilang beses man, sakaling muli akong bigyan ng Lumikha ng pagkakataong tahakin pabalik ang landas ng buhay at pagkatapos ay muli akong magsimula at ngayo'y may opsiyon na akong pumili ng gusto kong gawin at hindi gustong gawin, walang pero-perong hahanapin at tatahakin ko pa rin ang landas patungo sa iyo, anak, susunduin kita at magkahawak-kamay at magkaagapay pa rin tayong maglalakbay.*"

(Now I know so very well that you are autistic, my son. And since that day I knew, my life has been one emotional roller-coaster ride... But I tell you with all honesty, and I repeat this over and over, if the Creator would give me the chance to trace back my life and start again, if I were made to choose what to do or not do, I would have no ifs and buts in seeking and taking the same path toward you, my son, I will take you, and hand in hand we will make the journey together.)

The two-day 9th National Conference on Autism at the Occupational Safety and Health Center auditorium on North Ave. QC ends today. The New Horizons Center can be reached at tel. nos. 928-4078 and 924-3553.

October 2005

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

28th Biennial CFM National Convention Opens

The kick-off Event for our Golden Year

The CFMers of the Archdiocese of Pampanga are the hosts for the 28th National Convention which will be held at the Fontana Leisure Parks at the Clark Special Economic Zone this coming October 21 - 23, 2005.

Boy & Agnes Yambao, Convention Chair-Couple, have Fred & Baby Ibarra, Vice Chair-Couple, helping them to ensure that this convention will become another occasion to meet old friends, renew acquaintances and turn out to be another memorable affair to remember.

The highpoint in every National Convention is the election of the new Executive Vice President (EVP) and an Area Vice President (AVP) for each of the Areas, namely: Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and Manila.

Roger & Nora Panlasigui, as the current EVP, takes over from Rolly & Josie Mesa the position of President-Couple Together with the newly elected National Officers, they will be inducted into office during the convention.

More delegates from each of the Areas are expected because the said dates coincide with the nationwide semestral vacation, from October 16 to 31.

The theme, "CFM Going 50, and Looking Beyond..." highlights the forty-nine (49) years' of CFM's existence in the Philippines. The collation of the responses to the questions posed in this year's Special Unit Meeting Series will summarize the Unit's perception on why it continues to be relevant these past years.

Realizing that relevance changes with the times and that times are changing, individual workshops will discuss how CFM may need to reinvent and/or transform itself given the anticipated changes in the four (4) communities of the Church, namely: 1) the families, 2) the youth, 3) the poor and developing communities; and 4) the formation of Basic Ecclesial Communities.

CFMers will return to their respective areas, with fresh insights of how they can better respond to the changes of the times in their own locality.

THE CFM PROGRAMS

The Family Life Apostolate (FLA) program plays an important part in the CFM Evangelization Processes that aims to attain its Mission Statement:, which:

"To Evangelize and Be Evangelized".

The part that the FLA programs play in transforming the Christian Community into a Domestic Church is best described in an outline form, as follows:

EVANGELIZING PROCESS (To fulfill the CFM Mission, see above)
1. FORMATION (To be evangelized)
   - 1.1. Unit Meeting
   - 1.2. Retreats and Recollections
   - 1.3. Study of Papal documents and other Church teachings/practices
2. MINISTRY (To evangelize)
   - 2.1. Social Action Projects: Results of the Actions agreed upon in the Unit Meeting. These are directed to serve the community
   - 2.2. FLA Programs: Leading to initial conversion and transformation

Formation leads to Ministry and vice versa. After experiencing an initial conversion/ transformation during the FLA Program, the family (spouses/head) joins a CFM Unit meeting to ensure the continuity of the initial transformation

The CFM FLA programs have evolved from the needs of Christian Families. New programs are being developed by CFM to meet these needs. Through the years, the following programs were introduced:
1959: Pre-Cana (Pre-marriage Orientation) & Holy Week Retreat for Couples
1960: Family Life Education (FLED) seminars in schools and offices
1969: Marriage Encounter
1970: Solo Parents Program
1972: Marriage Enrichment, which later was called "Tipanan"
1976: Family Encounter
1977: Priests Encounter
1978: Sons & Daughters Encounter
1999: Christian Family Life Appreciation Seminar
2000: Parent-Child Interaction
2003: Solo Parents Encounter

Initially these programs were classified according to the various stakeholders of CFM such as the youth, engaged couples, parents, families, etc. Since 2002, these have been categorized according to the way these are managed, namely: Open programs, CFM-owned programs, and the F.I.R.E.S. programs

1) Open Programs: These include the first FLA Programs that are already CFM's gifts to the Church. These programs and all the new programs that come under this category are purposely not covered by copyright. Multipliers for these programs do not have to become CFMers.
2) CFM-Owned Programs: These programs developed by CFM are subject to periodic review and control by CFM Philippines. As such, only CFMers are allowed to deliver these programs, e.g. "Tipanan"
3) F.I.R.E.S., the acronym for FAMILY INTERCOMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS EXPERIENCES SERVICES, INC. include the ever popular "original" Marriage Encounter, which were all developed by Fr. Gabriel Calvo, and which were entrusted by him to CFM Philippines

OPEN PROGRAMS
Family Life Education (FLED)
- Personhood
- Pre-Marriage
- Marriage Proper
- Parenting Lecture Series

Pre-Cana Guidance & Counseling
Basic Counseling
Solo Parents Orientation
Orientation for Families of Overseas Contract Workers (FOCW)
Parent-Child Interaction
- Self-Awareness - Youth
- Parenting Workshop
- Family Covenant

Parish Pastoral Planning (SWOT) Process
Self-Awareness - Adult
Boy-Girl Relationship

CFM-OWNED PROGRAMS
Tipanan ng Mag-Asawa
Marriage Enrichment Seminar (Menrich)
Tipanan ng Mag-Anak
Young Adults Program (YAP)
Christian Family Life Appreciation Seminar
Solo Parent Encounter
CFM Appreciative Inquiry
CFM Lay "Gabay" Chaplaincy
Family Ministers Training
CFM Christian Leadership Seminar
Covenant Experience

F.I.R.E.S. PROGRAMS
Marriage Encounter - "ME"
Family Encounter - "FE"
Sons & Daughters Encounter - "SADE"
Family Communication Workshop - "FCW"
Self Encounter - "SE"
Priest Encounter - "PE"
Engaged Encounter - "EE"
Marriage Retorno - "MR"
Self Retorno - "SR"
SADE Retorno

Persons or Groups who wish to avail of these programs are advised to contact their CFM friends or the CFM Nazareth Home at Tel No. (02) 412 2738 or 724 6747.
CFM FLA Programs 1 of 3

The 28th CFM National Convention Committee chaired by Boy & Agnes Yambao in a meeting at Nazareth Home.

THE CFM THROUGH THE YEARS

Tony & Teresa Nieva
National President Couple 1956-1968

Rollie & Josie Mesa
National President Couple 2004-2005

Beginnings. In 1956, Patrick & Pat Crowley of Chicago, USA founders and prime movers of CFM, visited Manila to promote CFM. Inspired by the Crowleys, Tony & Teresa Nieva gathered couple friends to try what was then a unique and unorthodox idea. The idea was well received, and the first CFM unit in the Philippines was formed in Makati on February 8, 1956.

Since Then, CFM has pioneered in the development and delivery of Family Life Programs in the country. In 1959, CFM started Pre-Marital Counseling and Holy Week Retreats for couples. Family Life Education Courses in schools were introduced by CFM in the early 1960's. In 1969, CFM delivered the first Marriage Encounter or ME in the country, followed shortly by the Discovery Weekend (Engaged couple Encounter) and Family encounter. In 1972, it was Marriage Enrichment or TIPANAN. In 1977 came the Solo Parent Program and a year later the Sons & Daughters Encounter or SADE.

It was CFM that sperheaded the Family Rights Movement, which in 1979 came up with the Declaration of Family Rights. In the 1980's, CFM introduced Family Communications Workshop and the Young Adults Program or YAP. It is noteworthy that many of these Family Life Programs are now being promoted by many other groups and movements. While the main focus on Family Life, CFM was active in social-action programs, organizing credit union, skills training and placement programs. It also involved itself in non-partisan political movement (Citizen's League for Good Government NAMFREL, and PPCRV).

Presently, CFM continues to be at the forefront of Family Life Programs. The CFM Family Life Apostolate (FLA) Programs is the most comprehensive available today to parishes and dioceses. Its formation processes and training programs are being availed of, not only by CFM members, but also by other groups as well. For instance, the Pre-marriage Counseling (Pre-Cana) has become a requirement before obtaining the marriage license.

CFM GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY 1956 2006

THEME
CFM: Fifty Years in the Serviceof the Filipino Family

"We are a community of families called to witness to Christ. Our mission is to be evangelized and to evangelize families and communities
CFM going 50, looking beyond...

OBJECTIVES
1. To look back and assess what CFM has done in the past
2. To determine how CFM programs and activities have helped Filipino families
3. To enhance existing CFM programs and activities and design new ones where appropriate
4. To invigorate CFMers and attract more members to join the movement

CFM GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEES
Overall Chair Roger & Nora Panlasigui
Board of Advisers
Chair - Rolly & Josie Mesa
Members - All Past Presidents
WAYS & MEANS
TECHNICAL
ADMINISTRATIVE
HOSPITALITY
PUBLICITY & PROMOTIONS
LITURGICAL
CLERGY NIGHT
HISTORY
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
PRE-EVENTS

WAYS & MEANS
Roger & Nora Panlasigui
TREASURER - Cris & Diane Macavinta
SOUVENIR PROGRAM - Roger & Naty Dayan
EXHIBITS - Rene & Inday Pronstroller
MEMORABILIA/ - Long & Reby Toledano
SOUVENIRS - Hermie & Nanette Reyes

TECHNICAL
Joe & Zeny Capistrano
PROGRAM - Joe & Zeny Capistrano
DOCUMENTATION/ - Rolly & Betty Calingo
EVALUATION

ADMINISTRATIVE
Nasti & Gie Fermin
REGISTRATION - Nasti & Gie Fermin
INVITATION
International - Mel & Emma Ricafrente
3rd Phasers - Freddie & Lorie Ples
SECRETARIAT - Bert & Aleth San Juan

LOGISTICS
Frank & Nini Ramos
PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT - Bert & Bie Singzon
FOOD - Frank & Nini Ramos
RECEPTION - Pip & Wilma Cua
FELLOWSHIP - Danny & Mely Santos
TRANSPORTATION/ - Annabelle Jereza
ACCOMODATION
HISTORY - Joe & Charito Hilario
PUBLICITY/ - Annie Meily & Mon Jimenez
PROMOTION
AWARDS/ - Tony & Tita Kosca
RECOGNITION
LITURGICAL - Loy & Trining Marquez
CLERGY NIGHT - Pepe Lugay
PRE-EVENTS - Joey & Grace Marquez

LAUNCHING OF COMMEMORATIVE BOOKS
HISTORY OF CFM PHILIPPINES
INSPIRATIONAL BOOK

COMPILATION OF BEST PRACTICES AT VARIOUS LEVELS
Family
Unit
Parish
Area

NEW AND ENHANCED PROGRAMS
Family
Youth
Poor & Developing Communities

FLAGSHIP PROJECT(S)
SEMINAR SERIES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
STRESS MANAGEMENT

RECOGNITION & AWARDS
RECOGNITION - Past Presidents, past Presidents with ICCFM involvement, longest serving chaplain..
AWARDS - Diocese with biggest membership

COMMEMORATIVE MASSES
MEMORABILIA
COMMEMORATIVE STAMP
CFM PLANNER 2006 WITH DAILY GOSPEL READINGS
SOUVENIR ITEMS

OTHER PRE-EVENTS
ESSAY WRITING
POSTER MAKING
CHOIR COMPETITION
BOWLING TOURNAMENT

CULMINATING EVENT
October 2006
GRAND RE-UNION
PLANS FOR THE COMING YEARS
AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS
ACKKNOWLEDGMENTS

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-4
Do own thing, make it big in int'l film fest, says HK curator

■ SPORTS / A28
White Sox draw first blood in World Series

■ WORLD / A12
Nigerian plane with 116 passengers aboard crashes

■ LIFESTYLE / C1
The naked and the playing-dead

Food program serves up fresh hope for poor kids

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IN THIS COUNTRY GRIPPED BY POVERTY and hunger, hope is being served fresh and hot on the dining tables of poor children.

Through a massive feeding program started by the Archdiocese of Manila, hope has come in the form of *champorado, arroz caldo*

FOOD/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Rubber-stamp image bugs consultative body

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ITS MANDATE FROM President Macapagal-Arroyo is clear: Propose a shift to a parliamentary-federal system of

RUBBER-STAMP/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, October 24, 2005 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 318 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Bro. Mike, Hyatt 10 push snap election

Proposal not legal, says GMA lawyer

By Juliet Labog Javellana, Carla P. Gomez and Fe Zamora

TWO INFLUENTIAL religious leaders and opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo are pushing for the holding of a presidential election in 2007 to end the political impasse.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde are calling for a "snap election" via a single amendment to the Constitution, according to opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III.

The Black and White Movement, which includes the so-called Hyatt 10, is urging Vice President Noli de Castro to take the reins of power from Ms Arroyo and head an advisory council as "transition president" until a special election is held in 2007.

Both proposals would effectively cut short the six-year term of the President. Ms Arroyo, who has until 2010 to serve out her term, has been accused of stealing the presidential election in 2004. She has denied rigging the polls.

Romulo Macalintal, a lawyer of Ms Arroyo's, said there was nothing in the Constitution that authorizes cutting short the President's term.

Calling on Ms Arroyo to cut short her term was tantamount to asking her to resign, Macalintal said. "And if she agrees to cut short her term, she's considered resigned," he said.

Former President Fidel Ramos has proposed that Ms Arroyo

BRO. MIKE/ A8

WORRIES IN WINGS JOAN BONDOC

As birds flock to his field, a farmer tills his land in Candaba, Pampanga, unaware of government efforts to monitor the entry of the avian flu virus into the country. Ed Manangu, president of the Candaba Swamp Migratory Bird and Wildlife Foundation, believes the Philippines will be the last country to get the bird flu, if ever. *(Story on Page A2.)*

Erap elated over Cory's admission of mistake

By Norman Bordadora, Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

TO COME FROM SOMEONE LIKE Corazon Aquino, it was nothing less than a vindication. And it made his day.

That was how ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday received the news that Aquino, one of the leaders of the popular revolt that swept him out of Malacañang in 2001, had admitted to making a mistake in backing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as his successor.

"I feel vindicated because Ms Aquino is a respected leader not only here but also internationally," Estrada told the INQUIRER from his estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he is being held under house arrest.

"She is well-respected and with an unblemished record in leadership," Estrada said.

Malacañang refused to be drawn into the new fray.

Apparently reacting to the statements made by Aquino and evangelist leader Bro. Eddie Villanueva that, in effect, they had been wrong in supporting Ms Arroyo, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye could only express regret at "the failure of her critics to heed the call of religious leaders and the people for an end to political bickering."

"We shall not be drawn into counterproductive exchanges. Rather, we will maintain our focus on our people's welfare and advancement," Bunye said.

"I am elated," Estrada said, citing other events—including the election of his wife Luisa Ejercito and son Jinggoy Estrada to the Senate—to support his claim that he had been unjustly removed from office.

Speaking the other day to members of the Black and White movement calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation, Aquino had said: "I plead guilty to the fact that I thought GMA would be a better alternative to Estrada."

Villanueva spoke of a similar regret at the same forum.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, another son of Estrada's, also welcomed the statements of Aquino and Villanueva.

"These statements from those who opposed my father already vindicate him at this point," Ejercito said. "We have always believed history will vindicate President Estrada. I think it has started."

ERAP/ A20

Birds star in show amid avian flu threat

By DJ Yap

THE STARS OF THE SHOW soared, glided and waddled, rode on a scooter and played basketball, courted each other, and picked up trash.

One even acted out an Aesop fable.

But the cast of the Davao-based Malagos Garden's Interactive Bird Show also had something to say about the ecosystem, natural habitats, animal rights and responsible pet ownership.

Starring in this hourlong production are Blue and Red, a couple of macaws that alternate between being basketball buddies and star-crossed lovers, and Leila, a white umbrella cockatoo who likes to ride on trollies and throw litter into a bin.

And then there's Wacky, a raven who does a solo act, retelling Aesop's story about the thirsty crow who solves the problem of a narrow water pitcher by dropping pebbles and making the water rise.

The rest of the avian cast include a pair of ostriches, a flock of doves, a serpent eagle, a Philippine hawk, a handful of Brahmany kites and a marching band of American mallards.

Children clapped and adults cheered, but the stars were content with a piece of fruit or a chunk of meat as reward for a job well done.

In a blend of entertainment and education, the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife (NAPW) center is playing host to the second season of the bird production by the Malagos Preservation Foundation Inc.

Said to be the first and only full-production bird show in the country, the event has been a reg-

BIRDS/ A4

Pink ribbon links survivors of breast cancer worldwide

By DJ Yap and Tarra V. Quismundo

UPON LEARNING THEY HAD breast cancer, an executive from Beijing and a businesswoman from Manila took it calmly, vowing not to be defeated by a mere lump that threatened to take away their lives.

Wang Bao Ling, 59, tapped her foot impatiently and asked the doctor: "What should be done, and how soon can you do it?"

Cynthia Feliciano, 43, on the other hand, joked about it with her husband: "Isn't cancer only for the rich?"

For all their display of strength, however, a little of

PINK/ A22

MARA, a 7-year-old blind cocker spaniel, joins the "Walk for Breast Cancer" in Makati City. *(Story on Page A22.)* ERIK ARAZAS

OFW cash reshapes Ilocos countryside

BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE—IN THIS impoverished rural corner of Ilocandia, traditional one-room nipa houses are giving way to modern brick homes with glass windows, tiled roofs and giant courtyards—the product of a housing boom fueled by remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

As the region marks the 100th anniversary of the first batch of its sons who went to work abroad, a fresh flood of greenbacks is swamping the sleepy village of Billoca by the shores of a lake, triggering furious development.

Large houses in shades of mint, ecru, cream and old rose threaten to swallow up the paddy fields. Farmers gleefully oblige the newly rich by selling their plots for up to 12 times what they worth before the construction frenzy.

"This was only the first big house to be built. Now you see

OFW/ A6

ROLANDO and Josephine Silao tend the garden of a bungalow built and owned by Josephine's older sister and husband, both based in California, in Barangay Billoca, Batac, Ilocos Norte. AFP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRILL BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/24/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

House row seen delaying '06 budget

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED P1.053-TRILlion budget for 2006 could be further delayed due to the squabble brewing among the leadership of the House of Representatives, administration Sen. Ralph Recto warned yesterday.

"As it is, the passage of the budget is already delayed. But because of the squabble [over the House leadership] this will be further delayed," Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, said in a phone interview.

Recto was referring to the reported campaign launched by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. to wrest control of the speakership from Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Recto said the possibility the House version of the proposed budget would be transmitted to the Senate by mid-November was getting slimmer by the day due to these developments.

"Unless we're able to pass the budget before the year-end, we're giving the public the raw end of the deal," he said.

The proposed budget is P134.4 billion higher than this year's P918.6-billion outlay.

Opposition Representatives Jacinto Paras and Rolex Suplico had revealed the campaign to unseat De Venecia, saying that about 65 lawmakers had expressed their support for the bid of Pichay, a stalwart of the ruling Lakas-CMD, for the speakership.

But De Venecia and some allies had belittled the ouster move, saying, "Everybody is free to contend in a democracy such as ours. It's not a rebellion in the ranks but just post-impeachment jockeying of posts," De Venecia said.

Pichay himself was playing it coy over his reported move to unseat De Venecia .

"What ouster move?" asked Pichay when reached by phone.

The usually talkative Pichay said he was just "relaxing somewhere on a beach in the south, drinking *buko* juice, not minding the biting attacks by the Speaker whom I hold in high esteem."

Asked about his rumored ambition to snatch the speakership from De Venecia, he said: "When the time comes for me to make a decision, I will definitely talk to him man to man and tell him about the sentiments of the majority."

He assured De Venecia he would not "stab the Speaker in his back."

"I want to keep my cards to my chest. The mystery will be lost if I say something now. We will remain incognito in the meantime," said Pichay, who said he was still "doing consultations" with other members of the ruling coalition.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, a close friend of Pichay's, has been trying to mediate with De Venecia.

"Division in the House is the last thing we want for Christmas. It's a nightmare to think about cracks in the majority bloc," said Nograles, who called for a caucus of some 180 lawmakers belonging to the majority bloc.

Nograles said both De Venecia and Pichay must talk things through so the allies in the majority would remain intact. "We need to fix this before we resume sessions on Nov. 7," he said.

News of the ouster bid against De Venecia came on the heels of the cancellation of the House budget hearings due to lack of a quorum, raising the possibility that the 2005 budget would be reenacted.

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the committee on finance, had voiced the hope the House would transmit its version of the budget by mid-November so the Senate could start deliberations.

Recto also warned that a delay in the passage of the budget would affect the release of four major items in the outlay, such as the increase in the pay and retirement benefits of government employees and expenditures for infrastructure projects, education and health.

No reason to doubt gov't figures, says Neri

By Christine O. Avendaño

THERE IS NO REASON FOR ANYONE to doubt the government statistics that show the economy grew by five percent in the third quarter despite the political turmoil.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday the government data was "very very accurate," in reaction to some opposition lawmakers' claim that the figures did not show the true picture in the country.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero told RMN radio that he doubted the latest GDP (gross domestic product) growth figure because the people were not feeling the economic gains but remained poor.

Defending the data, Neri said the people who collate government data were professionals and well-respected, thus, he did not think their work should be doubted.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the country was on the verge of an economic takeoff and this was supported by various financial institutions.

"This government is resolved to make the Philippine market economy a vanguard in the global arena," Bunye said in a statement.

Also interviewed over RMN radio, Neri explained how the economy was able to grow despite the political storm buffeting the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the occurrence of natural disasters like the El Niño weather phenomenon that causes drought.

He said the agricultural sector, which was down in the first two quarters because of El Niño, was now recovering.

Other sectors of the economy, like tourism and mining, were also doing well, he said.

Many investments were coming into the mining industry and this was providing jobs in the countryside, he said.

Neri said increasing tourist numbers were also helping the economy, it being "labor intensive."

But he said the continued hike in oil prices, which was "beyond the control of the government," was making the lives of the people difficult.

"We have to balance everything."

Solons urge GMA: Make exec appear

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE WILL ASK PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo to compel former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante to appear at its inquiry into the alleged misuse of P728 million in fertilizer funds in last year's presidential elections.

"If he keeps on snubbing the hearing, we will ask the President, since she's the one who appointed him as Undersecretary, to compel him to appear," said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the committee on agriculture and food.

Bolante snubbed the Senate's first hearing on Oct. 6.

Last Friday , the senator's staff and a member of the Office of the Senate Sergeant-At-Arms tried to serve him a subpoena at the Westin Philippine Plaza where he was presiding over a Rotary International conference.

Bolante's lawyer Antonio Zulueta received the subpoena instead.

Zulueta maintained that Bolante had already explained his role in the disbursement of the funds and that current agriculture officials were in a better position to explain.

But Magsaysay insisted that Bolante, who had been designated by then Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo to handle the disbursement of the funds in 2004, was the best person to shed light on the matter.

"He's the key. He was asked by Cito to handle the fund from beginning to end," Magsaysay said.

The Senate wants to know where the funds, supposedly intended to buy farm implements and inputs, went after farmers complained they did not receive any money, the senator said.

Measures set up against bird flu

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—MEASURES ARE in place to prevent the 32,000-hectare Candaba Swamp from becoming the epicenter of a bird flu outbreak in the Philippines, Mayor Jerry Pelayo said.

The national government had helped form a 24-hour surveillance team composed of personnel from the Department of Health and the Bureau of Animal Industry, Pelayo said.

The team is equipped with a mobile laboratory to do blood tests of migratory or domestic fowl that show symptoms of the avian influenza virus.

The Philippines has remained free of the H5N1 strain of the virus that has killed more than 60 people and millions of chickens in Southeast Asia since 2003, the national task force said.

Pelayo said a local task force was organized from among local agriculture and health officials, barangay leaders, parish pastoral councils members and duck raisers.

As of Friday, he said hotlines were being finalized for the reporting system of the task force.

Duck raisers have also begun relocating their stocks away from the town's 250-hectare bird sanctuary. The more cautious have kept their stocks in coops, temporarily abandoning the tradition of raising ducks in the open where natural food like rice, corn grits and snails are available.

These moves, said Pelayo, would reduce the risk of mingling between domestic and migratory fowl which fly to the marshland for winter and breed until February.

In Cagayan Valley, local governments have ordered a tight watch over the region's wetlands where migratory birds roost. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AFP*

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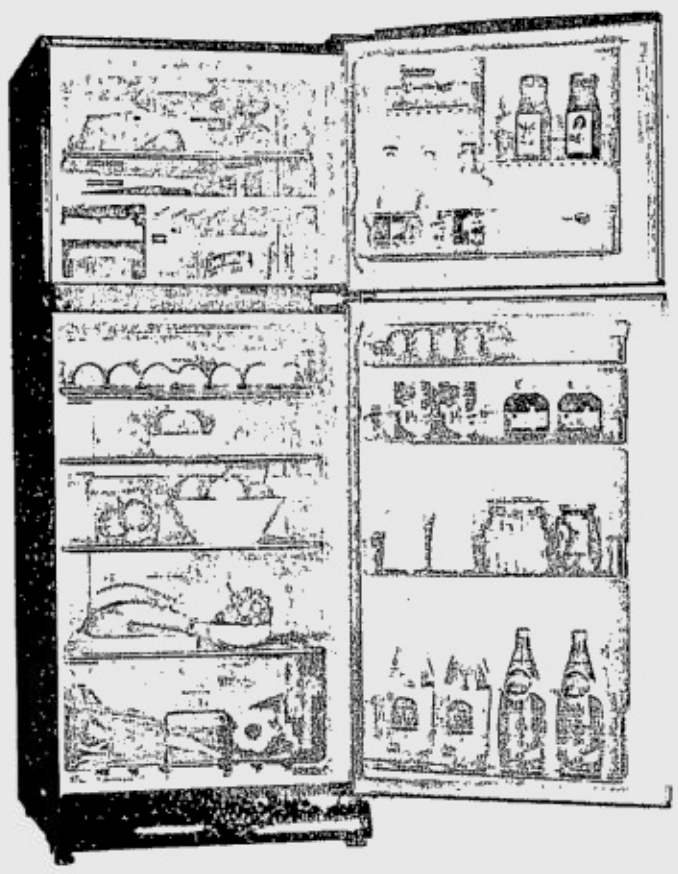

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SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

UN Day special to RP envoy

THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF United Nations Day today, Oct. 24, is specially significant in the 60th year of the organization for one man—Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Lauro L. Baja.

Baja leads the country's participation in key meetings of the UN, particularly the Security Council, the organization's most powerful body.

"Our membership in the Security Council gives us diplomatic prominence. The President's [Macapagal-Arroyo] very successful chairing of the council, as the first woman leader to do so, highlights our membership," Baja said.

A career diplomat with over 40 years in the service, Baja has established himself as a consensus builder since his days as senior undersecretary for policy at the Department of Foreign Affairs, where he successfully negotiated, among other pacts, the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and the Trilateral Agreement on the Exchange of Information and Establishment of Communication Procedures to Combat Terrorism.

AMBASSADOR Baja

He is the recipient of the Philippines' highest diplomatic awards for integrity, professionalism and outstanding service: The Gawad Mabini with the rank of Dakilang Kamanong and the Order of Sikatuna with the rank of Datu. Last year, the United Nations Association of the Philippines presented him with the General Carlos P. Romulo UN Award.

He has received the highest awards from Brazil and Italy, his two previous postings as ambassador.

At the Security Council, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and various delegations cited Baja for "bringing unity back to the Security Council and multilateralism to the core of the United Nations" during his first presidency of the council in June 2004.

He shepherded the landmark Security Council Resolution 1546 which transferred sovereignty to the interim government of Iraq and provided the framework for the constitutional process in that country. He holds two chairmanships and three vice chairmanships of Security Council committees.

"In negotiations, it is necessary to give a little to get a little. Oftentimes the bonds you nurture with your peers are as important as the knowledge, and the experience, and the vision you must have to discharge your mandate," Baja said.

"I am glad we were able to establish an identity and play a role in the Security Council. The goodwill and respect we earn in the council could be useful passports to gain acceptance of other Philippine initiatives in the United Nations," he added.

These initiatives include the promotion of an interfaith dialogue for peace, a debt-for-equity swap in Millennium Development Goal projects, and migration and sustainable development programs.

The Philippines expects to be Vice President of the 61st United Nations General Assembly as well as win election to ECOSOC next year.

Pinoy sailor saves 3, gets DFA award

FOR RISKING HIS LIFE TO SAVE THREE Colombian fishermen from drowning in stormy seas, a veteran Filipino seaman has won recognition from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo awarded Noel Soreta a Certificate of Recognition on Friday, describing him as a "hero in the truest sense" who displayed "uncommon courage, valor and selflessness at sea."

Soreta, a native of Camarines Sur, has been working as a seafarer for 15 years.

According to the DFA, the incident happened last March in Cartagena , Colombia.

In the middle of a storm, rough waves overturned the Colombian fishermen's boat, forcing them to cling to the boat's keel with neither food nor water for more than one day.

Their boat was sighted by Soreta's vessel, the M/T Inca, but extreme weather conditions hampered any rescue.

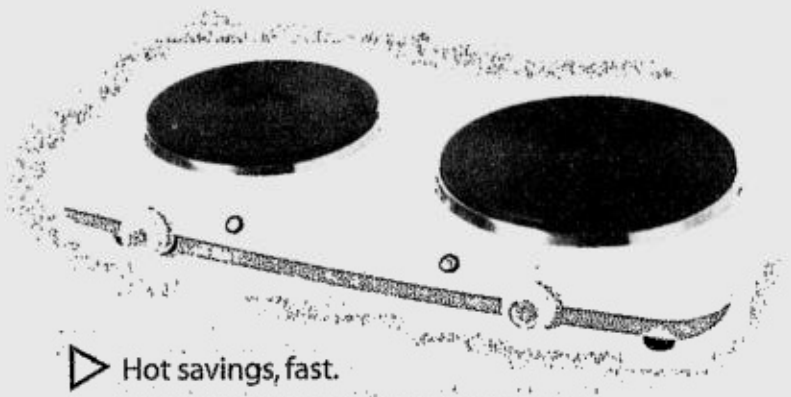
Despite the risk, Soreta jumped into the water and swam to the fishermen.

"This is the spirit that animates Filipinos everywhere," Romulo said. "A spirit that enables Filipinos not only to face life's adversities but to triumph over adversities."

The simple awarding ceremonies were held at the secretary's office at the DFA.

Present were Soreta's brother, Romeo, and William Medcalf, director of Wallem Maritime Shipping Co., representing Soreta's manning agent.

Medcalf also presented Soreta a plaque of recognition from the Tsakos Group of Companies, the seaman's Greek employer. *Nikko Dizon*



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6. Switch off the electric stove during the last minutes of cooking. The remaining heat will allow the food to simmer.

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Women's group marks UN Day

THE ALL NATIONS WOMEN'S GROUP (ANWG) celebrates United Nations Day today with a cultural program at the residence of Thai Ambassador Asha Divitiyananda at 14 Jacaranda St., North Forbes Park, Makati City, at 2 p.m. The theme of the affair is "Collaboration Between Cultures: The Tie that Binds All Nations."

The affair will feature a welcome dance presentation by the Royal Thai Embassy ladies, highlighted by the keynote speech of Ambassador Divitiyananda. She will be introduced by ANWG president Merceditas Posadas.

The program will also feature a violin solo by Denise Santos Huang of the Philharmonic Orchestra accompanied by Jane Banta on the piano. Soloist Aida Sebastian will render several songs and the Claravall Dance Studio will perform a ballet.

Highlight of the affair will be the parade of international costumes worn by ANWG members and guests. Overall chair of the cultural program is Villa Granada de Guia and co-chair is Lolita Mirpuri.

Honorary consul in Poland named

DARIUSZ WIATR, A POLISH-AMERICAN, has been appointed honorary consul of the Philippines in Wroclaw, Poland, by Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo.

Wiatr has jurisdiction over Lower Silesia, Malopolska and Podkarpachie and is under the supervision of the Philippine Embassy in Budapest headed by Ambassador Alejandro del Rosario.

He holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, graduating with honors.

He is a member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Warsaw and was cited as New Economy Man of the Year by Businessmen's Magazine.

Wiatr is married to a Filipino, Rhea Frances Reyes, and they have two children.

Loren: Noli 'great tragedy' in parliamentary system

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER SEN. LOREN LEGARda says Vice President Noli de Castro will be a "great tragedy" in a proposed parliamentary system and could even wreck it before it could be planted firmly in the ground.

The Office of the Vice President, along with the Senate, will be abolished if the Consultative Commission on Constitutional Amendments had its way.

But to appease De Castro, the commission proposes to make him Speaker of Parliament during an interim period, or until his current term expires in 2010. Senators will also remain as members of parliament.

"If this happens, it would be a great tragedy because Noli has not shown any ability for parliamentary work during his short stint as a senator. He might just wreck the parliamentary process," Legarda said.

She was reacting yesterday to the Consultative Commission's recommendation to shift the country to a federal-type parliamentary system of government.

Legarda, who lost to De Castro in the 2004 vice presidential election, said the Vice President should not worry too much about his role in the proposed new Constitution because his election was still being questioned.

Her election protest against De Castro is still being heard by the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

In her complaint, Legarda claimed that the 2004 election was marred by massive fraud, resulting in the proclamation of De Castro as Vice President-elect.

"The fate of our people and future generations is involved in the contemplated amendments or changes to the Constitution, but it seems that Mr. De Castro is concerned only with what happens to him and his hold on governmental powers," Legarda said. "If he really wants to serve the people, he should resign."

Rubber-stamp image bugs consultative body

From page A1

government. But could the 49-member Consultative Commission at least make an effort to take a more independent, transparent course?

Some of the commission's members, like congressional critics of the initiative, are unhappy at the process the body has adopted in carrying out its mandate, describing it as "flawed."

For example, they question a decision to vote first on proposed amendments before going out to consult the public.

"Are we here to consult or to convince the people about a predetermined position?" asked James Marty Lim, national president of the League of Barangays.

"We are no more than a rubber-stamp commission," he said, warning that their efforts could turn into a "very expensive no vote."

Other members are concerned that the commission, formed by the President, could be seen as a mere rubber stamp and an "approve-now-consult-later" body.

With a budget of P10 million, the commission was convened on Sept. 28 and has been meeting four times a week since. It has up to Dec. 15 to complete its work and prepare a report to the President, who would then submit it to Congress.

First consultation

Starting today, the commission is sending teams to Cebu, Zamboanga and Palawan to "conduct consultations and studies" and propose amendments and revisions to the 1987 Constitution.

But before even conducting its first consultation, the plenary approved on Thursday, by a vote of 32-7, a report of the committee shifting from the presidential system with a bicameral legislature to a parliamentary government with one lawmaking body.

There are no details on what this system is all about. Some members are even dismayed at the "unsatisfactory presentation" by the committee chair, Emmanuel Angeles.

In its plenary session on Thursday, the commission was set to vote on a recommendation to set up a federal system where powers and resources would be decentralized to regional governments or states.

The item was sent back to the committee on the structure of the republic due to "technical errors," said commission secretary general Lito Lorenzana.

But during the debates, the old issue of why the body was making a decision before it was able to get the public sentiment cropped up anew.

Commission chair Jose Abueva and other officials had dismissed these objections in past meetings.

Subject to refinements

Abueva, the prime advocate of the parliamentary-federal system, said he and others like-minded were "not hypocrites" and gave assurances they would take the people's sentiments into consideration.

"This is our best judgment but it will be subject to refinements and modifications," he said.

Journalist Jarius Bondoc said the commission would appear to be out to advocate rather than to find out if the people supported specific Charter changes.

"This is a very flawed procedure, (when we decide) even before we can consult the people. The better process would be consult the people first then come up with a decision," said Jose Villanueva.

He said that in his consultations with barangays in Manila, it became clear that people "know nothing" about federalism.

He said it would be "easier to sell a modified presidential system."

The vote on the shift to a parliamentary-unicameral system has been delayed by one week over the same argument.

Why the rush to recommend the parliamentary shift? If the public is against this recommendation, Villanueva asked, "Can we be honest or intransigent on insisting on our decision?"

Another member, Andres Bautista, is afraid that the Concom would be seen as an "approve-now-consult-later" body. He proposed that in the phrasing of its resolution to shift, the vote should be described as "preliminary."

Businessman Sergio Luis-Ortiz proposed that the resolution should also be "subject to final deliberations."

But ex-Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia said using the buzzwords was "self-defeating" and would water down the plenary decision. "That would effectively kill the resolution," he said.

He likened the situation to someone who had decided to get married but wanted to consult relatives if the wedding should be held "on a full moon, new moon or what," drawing laughter from his colleagues.

Specific task

Mayor Gerry Espina of Naval, Biliran, asked: "Can't we go against federalism? It seems we have prejudged the direction of this body." The former congressman espouses the retention of the presidential system with modifications.

Journalist Carmen Pedrosa called Espina's attention to the executive order creating the commission, pointing out that it was tasked with studying and proposing amendments, principally the shift to the parliamentary-federal system.

If its leadership is any gauge, the commission appears dead-set on recommending a shift to the parliamentary-federal system.

Three of its key members—Abueva, Lorenzana and Rey Magno Teves—belong to the Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines. This group has prepared a "Draft Constitution for a Federal Republic of the Philippines with a Parliamentary Government."

The draft provides mainly for a federal government with 12 constituent states and their local governments.

Commission officials could not explain exactly how the result of the public consultations would be measured and considered by the commission in its final report.

Birds star in show amid . . .

From page A1

ular feature of the Malagos Garden Resort in Davao City since 2002. For its second season, organizers coordinated with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to bring the show to the NAPW in Quezon City.

Hosted by wildlife conservationist and veterinarian Robert Puentespina, the show features more than 200 birds from some 30 species that entertain guests with tricks in the middle of a running spiel about civic values, such as sportsmanship, perseverance, punctuality, honesty and proper waste disposal.

The host also talks about the depletion of forests that makes many bird species lose their homes, and how biodiversity keeps the ecosystem stable.

Natural behavior

At the launch of the bird show on Saturday, Puentespina said it was important to make the birds retain their natural behavior.

With Blue and Red as "actors," he described the courtship rituals of macaws, in which the male suitor keeps offering his prospective mate sticks for her nest.

At first, Blue kept rejecting what looked like hard sticks, until Red got his act together and began offering twigs with leaves, which she happily accepted.

After a few more offerings, Blue finally allowed Red inside her nest. "And they lived happily ever after," Puentespina said.

The host also told the audience about the story of Kado, a green parrot who was turned over to them last year practically naked, with only feathers in the head and tail. Kept in a cage for many years, Kado developed the bad habit of plucking his own feathers, he said.

"This is the result of irresponsible pet ownership," Puentespina said. He told the audience that even pets need "enrichment" to live their lives more fully.

Since taking Kado into their care, he has grown back his feathers and has stopped his bad habit, he said.

Flying exercises

Puentespina said the birds had been trained to depend on human handlers and would not survive if they were set free. Some are also physically disabled, including a blind black palm cockatoo, he said. The birds were being looked after well, given flying exercises and fed a natural regimen of fruits, meat and fish.

The show is interactive, meaning the audience is seated in an open area where the performing birds soar above them. But the audience is told not to feed the birds or distract them.

The show will run until Jan. 29, 2006. Performances are held Thursdays to Sundays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets cost P200 for adults, P180 for students and P160 for senior citizens.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 24, 2005
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:12-17
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath and a crippled woman was there. An evil spirit had kept her bent for 18 years so that she could not straighten up at all. On seeing her, Jesus called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." Then he laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made straight and praised God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had performed this healing on the Sabbath day and he said to the people, "There are six days in which to work; come on those days to be healed and not on the Sabbath."

But the Lord replied, "You hypocrites! Everyone of you unties his ox or his donkey on the Sabbath and leads it out of the barn to give it water. And here you have a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had bound for 18 years. Should she not be freed from her bonds on the Sabbath?"

When Jesus said this, all his opponents felt ashamed. But the people rejoiced at the many wonders that happened through him.

Commentary

Jesus is in a synagogue on a Sabbath, teaching and sees a woman bent double for 17 years (she would have been in the back of the gathering). He cries out freedom for her and leaves the front, cutting through the crowd—everyone would have parted like the Red Sea so the women wouldn't have touched him. He lays hands on her and raises her up! And she stands and praises God loudly. And bedlam ensues. The synagogue leader tries to get order back, by quoting the law, and telling people not to bring people to be healed (no one brought her or had anything to do with her for seventeen years)... and Jesus becomes prophet as well as preacher. He declares them all hypocrites, intent on outwardly worshiping and obeying laws, but bending them for their own convenience when it suits their livelihood (taking their animals to water) but not caring at all about human beings bent under economic, social and accepted evil (Satan means anything or anyone who hinders one from living as a child of God). She is the only daughter of Abraham, true believer and worshipper about them! Do we ever really worship God?

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Correction

IN THE OCT. 17 issue, a front-page story—"Politicians turn to Rizal for guidance"—erroneously stated that Jose Rizal's execution on Dec. 30, 1896 "inspired Filipino revolutionaries, like Andres Bonifacio, to take up arms against Spain two years later." The Philippine Revolution broke out in August 1896 or four months before Rizal's execution—not in 1898 as the story said.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Pursuant to Bar Matter 850, non-compliance with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) requirement shall be a cause for listing a lawyer as a delinquent member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and consequently, he shall not be permitted to practice law. Notices of non-compliance for the first compliance period of the MCLE are now being sent out by the MCLE Committee. The deadline for the second compliance period of the MCLE is fast approaching.

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☐ Nov. 19 a.m.	2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
	2/MCLE Prescribed: Securities Regulation Code and Corporate Governace	SEC Dir. Justina F. Callangan
☐ Nov. 19 p.m.	2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon
	3/Updates in Constitutional Law: The Impeachment Process	Prof. Harry H.L. Roque, Jr.
☐ Nov. 26 a.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed: Technology and the Law	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
	2/Legal Ethics	Justice Hector L. Hofileña
☐ Nov. 26 p.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed: Recent Reforms in Tax Laws	Atty. Nestor M. Aspe
	3/Alternative Dispute Resolution	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
☐ Dec. 03 a.m.	2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Ruben T. Reyes
	2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
☐ Dec. 03 p.m.	2/Updates in New Rules and Jurisprudence in Family Law	Atty. Melencio S. Sta. Maria
	2/Legal Ethics	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
	1/Updates in Substantive and Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: New Notarial Law	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
☐ Dec. 10 a.m.	2/International Law	Prof. Harry H.L. Roque, Jr.
	2/Legal Ethics	Justice Jose L. Sabio
☐ Dec. 10 p.m.	2/Alternative Dispute Resolution	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
	2/Updates in Criminal Law	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta

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Church protests 'aswang' festival

By Christian V. Esguerra

A FESTIVAL THAT SUPPOSEDLY GLORIFIES evil and paganism in Capiz, the country's perceived city of *aswang* (witches), has angered the local Roman Catholic Church.

The Archbishop of Capiz has issued a strongly worded pastoral letter condemning the second "Lupad Capiznon Festival" set on Oct. 28-30 for purportedly smearing the dignity of the province's folk.

"We do not allow even seemingly the glorification of the *aswang* image per se and much more at the expense of the Capiceños who are worthy of their dignity and person," said Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo.

The letter, a copy of which was e-mailed to the INQUIRER, was read during Mass in parishes under the archdiocese beginning Sunday.

For the Capiz clergy, the event is every inch an exaltation of the pagan belief in *aswang*, a creature in Philippine folklore that preys on pregnant women.

Belief has it that they thrive in Capiz, a province in the Panay islands, which has one of the most active and devout Catholic flocks in the country.

Pressure from the Church forced the organizers, the Dugo Capiznon Inc. (DCI), to change the event's original name "Aswang Pag-usoy Festival," roughly translated as "In Search of the Aswang," to something less telling.

The DCI also acceded to Gordoncillo's request for there to be no *aswang* costumes or body painting during the festival.

Nevertheless, various religious organizations had asked Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario to stop the holding of the festival because they said "it greatly insulted God."

Del Rosario declined the request saying it was not a violation of the law and the DCI was a legitimate organization registered with the proper government agencies.

Arnel Estiaga, DCI director, said that despite strong opposition from the Catholic Church and other religious groups, they were all set for the three-day festival.

He stressed that the DCI would stand by its goal of turning the negative notion of *aswang* into something positive—like promoting tourism which could boost the economic and cultural vitality of Capiz. *With Felipe V. Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

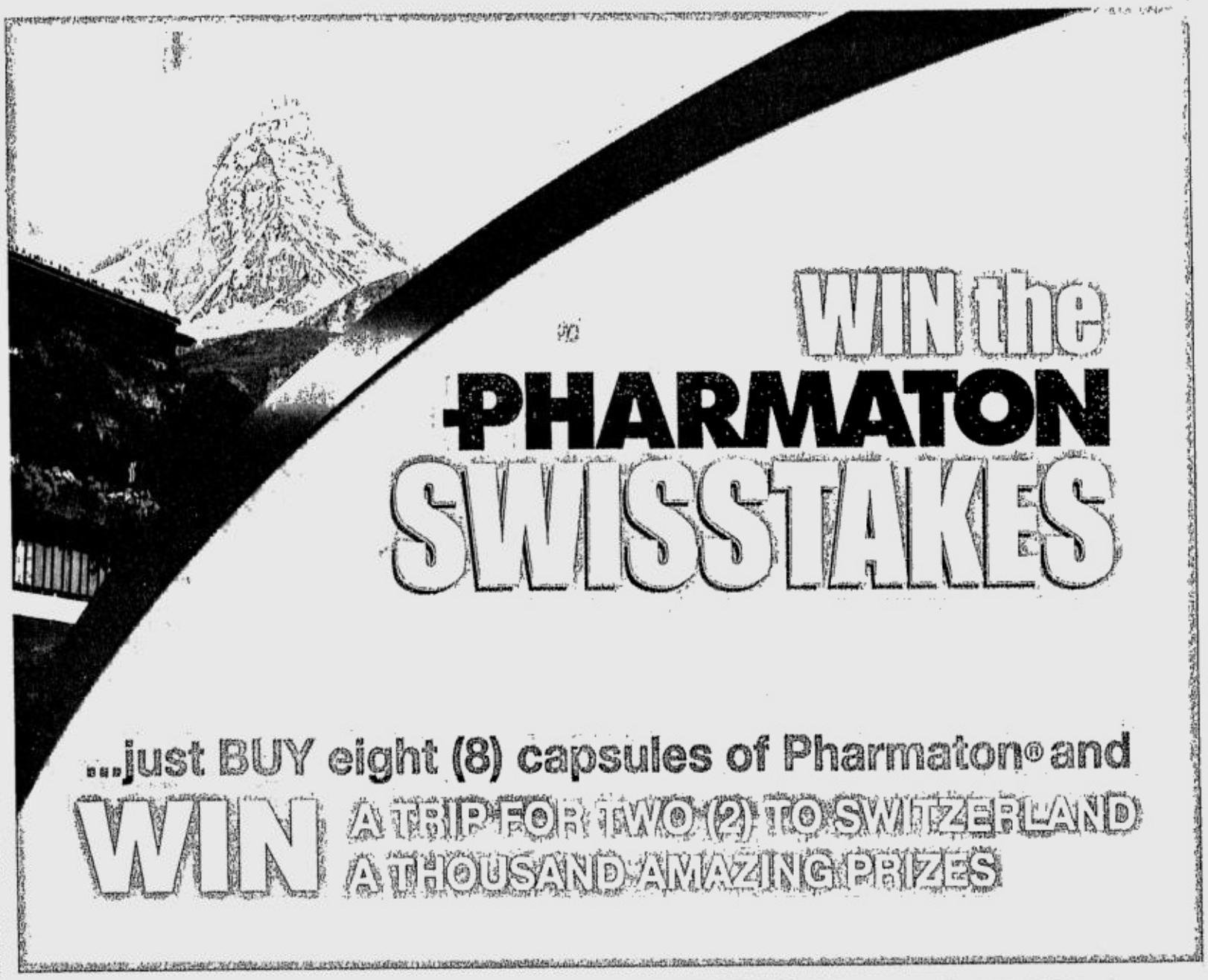
PNB rebuffed on Marcos funds

HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS OF MARTIAL LAW won a significant victory over the weekend after a Singaporean court rejected an appeal by the Philippine National Bank to stop the court from hearing a lawsuit involving the $25-million in Marcos funds still deposited in the Singaporean branch of German bank West LB.

Robert Swift, American lawyer of the human rights victims, and his Filipino co-counsel Rod Domingo Jr. said Singaporean Justice Kan Ting Chiu on Friday denied the motion of PNB to transfer the case to the Philippines. The PNB had argued that only a Philippine court could hear the case.

The Singaporean branch of West LB had refused to remit the $25-million Marcos Swiss deposits to the Philippine government despite an order from Swiss authorities in July 2003.

The amount (previously $22 million) forms part of the $683 million in Marcos Swiss deposits that were ordered transferred to the Philippine government by Swiss authorities after the Philippine Supreme Court declared the funds were "ill-gotten." *Alcuin Papa*



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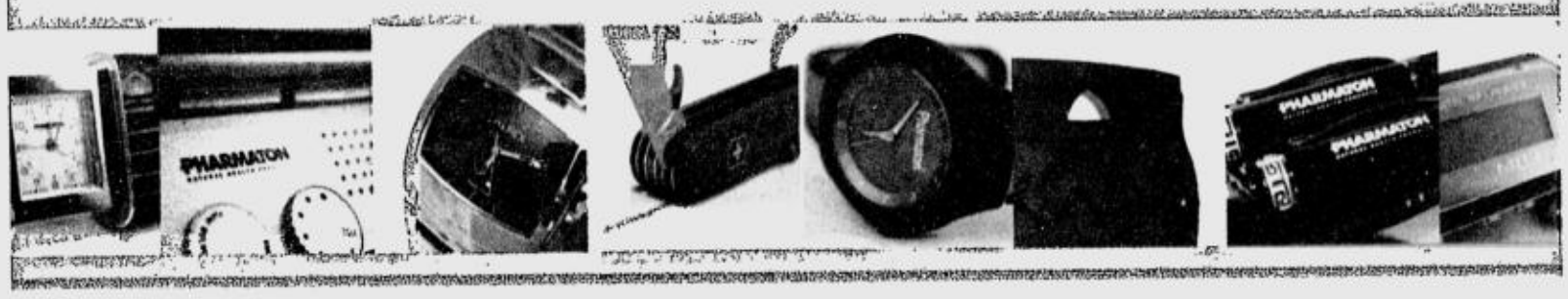

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November 11, 2005, 12:00 nn	November 11, 2005, 2:00 pm
November 25, 2005, 12:00 nn	November 25, 2005, 2:00 pm
December 9, 2005, 12:00 nn	December 9, 2005, 2:00 pm
December 22, 2005, 12:00 nn	December 22, 2005, 2:00 pm

4. There will be a bi-weekly raffle draw of the following Premium Items to be held at [illegible] every other Friday at 2:00 pm, starting October 28, 2005:

MP3 Player
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Travel Bag Blue/Beige
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Watch Alfex-Man Black
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Watch Alfex Woman Gold
Watch Alfex Woman Black/Gold
Pen Set Roller

The Grand Prize is a 3-day trip for two to Lugano, Switzerland. This will include round trip airfare tickets from Manila to Lugano, Switzerland with three (3) days/ two (2) nights hotel accommodation and five hundred dollars ($500) pocket money, meals and tours included

5. The Grand Raffle Draw will be held at [illegible] 30, a week before the official grand draw, at 5:00 pm. (COB)

A DOH-BFAD representative and an Official Representative from Boehringer Ingelheim will be present to witness all the draws.

6. Bi-weekly winners' names will be posted at the Pharmaton website at [illegible]

7. Designated agency will deliver the premium items to all winners' specified address two weeks after the bi-weekly draw along with a Congratulatory Letter

8. A winner can only win once in the bi-weekly raffle draw. If a name wins more than once per draw, he/she gets the prize with the higher value

9. Non-winning entries in the bi-weekly raffle are still eligible for the succeeding bi-weekly raffle draws and the Grand Raffle Draw.

10. Boehringer Ingelheim reserves the right to replace any premium item depending on the availability of stock, with another item of equal or higher peso value.

11. The grand prize winner will be notified through registered mail and posted on the website, [illegible]

12. To claim the grand prize, the [illegible]. Only the winner can claim the grand prize. No other representative will be allowed to claim on the winner's behalf.

13. The redemption period for the grand prize shall be within [illegible] from receipt of the letter. If prize is not claimed [illegible] from date of notification, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Boehringer Ingelheim, with prior approval from DOH-BFAD.

14. The trip is valid [illegible] from issuance date.

15. The grand prize is transferable

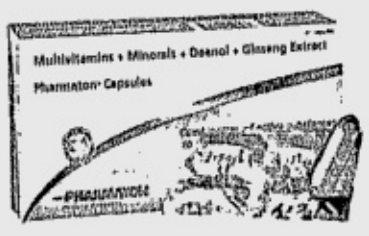
16. All prizes are non-convertible to cash

17. Boehringer Ingelheim shall shoulder the 20 % prize tax. Any other taxes and fees that may be imposed shall be paid by the winner

18. All officers and employees of Boehringer Ingelheim and their advertising and promo agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion

19. Necessary travel documents are to be secured by the winner. Travel tax and other travel related expenses are to be shouldered by the winner.

20. In case of dispute, the decision of Boehringer Ingelheim with the concurrence of DOH-BFAD shall be considered final.



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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1120 s. 2005

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NOTICE AND WARNING

Notice is hereby given to the public that our client, **STRATEGY MARKETING CORPORATION** of Caloocan City, is the owner of the trademark "**ULTRALITE** and **Representation of a Bear's Paw**" for use on shoes, slippers and boots covered by Application Serial No. 4-2005-006956 and an industrial design for a **SANDAL** covered by Application Serial No. 3-2005-000788 both pending with the Intellectual Property Office. As owner, our client is entitled to the exclusive use of the proceeding mark and industrial design in the Philippines.

STRATEGY MARKETING CORPORATION has not authorized any individual or entity to use its trademark "**ULTRALITE** and **Representation of a Bear's Paw**" in the manufacture, importation, distribution, and / or sale of sandals with identical or substantially similar design to its above sandal design.

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RIZAL Parbo waters deer and chicken-shaped bushes at his commercial garden in Silangan in Ilocos Norte, which was put up with funds provided by his nephew who works at a hotel in Hawaii. AFP

OFW cash reshapes Ilocos countryside

From page A1

them all around the lake," says Rodolfo Ramos, whose uncle built his P7-million dream home five years ago on a one-hectare lot of rice paddy and woods.

His uncle plans to retire here soon after decades serving as a steward on navy ships based in the US port of San Diego.

"He was poor once, just like us. His family lived in a one-room bamboo shack with a wood-burning stove," Ramos tells Agence France-Presse. "Without the US Navy, they would have stayed that way."

Various cousins and neighbors have also sought their fortunes abroad, from caregivers in Canada to domestic helpers in Hong Kong and Spain. They are part of the army of four million Filipinos who now work abroad sending back an estimated $8 billion back home every year.

Even Ramos' 24-year-old eldest son has joined the exodus, one of tens of thousands of Filipino seafarers on the world's merchant fleets.

Property boom

Tax rates on land south of the lake have risen fourfold over the past year because of the huge demand.

"We bought this place for P1,300 a square meter, and we considered ourselves lucky. Now land around here goes for P1,800-P2,000 per square meter," says Rizal Parbo, who runs a garden and landscaping business that caters to the newly wealthy neighbors.

A nephew who works in a Hawaii hotel put up the capital.

Josephine Silao's elder sister, based in southern California, had one side of a hillside carved out so she could build a sprawling bungalow close to the northeastern shore of the lake.

Twenty-six major Philippine banks have followed the gravy train by opening branches in Laoag City, the capital of Ilocos Norte, according to Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

"I would venture to say that if you want to buy dollars, they would be cheapest here because of the volume of remittances," Marcos tells AFP.

"Some families have not one but two members abroad," he says. "The result is beautiful houses, plus they also start businesses, which is good."

Trapped in a dry, narrow coastal plain on the northwestern section of Luzon, the people of the Ilocos region caught the travel bug early on and blazed a trail that millions have followed.

The first workers sailed off to work in the sugarcane plantations of Hawaii in 1906 from Salomague, a forlorn port 350 km north of Manila, says Ferdinand Dumlao, a special assistant to the Ilocos Norte governor.

"That is how we set foot in Hawaii, and now we are a strong political force in Hawaii," Dumlao says.

Hawaii governor

He says Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle, many of whose constituents are the descendants of the Ilocano plantation workers, plans to visit the Ilocos region on Jan. 7 next year to unveil a centennial marker at Salomague Point.

Ramos says his grandfather, Nicomedes Galacgac, was among the first Billoca residents to work the Hawaii sugarcane fields. His younger brothers, Alberto and Victorio, soon followed him, and another brother, Pelagio, also went after World War II.

The eldest and the youngest prospered and never returned, but the fun-loving Alberto had kidney surgery and returned to a life of poverty here.

"Grandpa Kides was the first. Carabao-drawn carts hauled their luggage to the port. They said this road was a mere dirt path at the time," Ramos says, gesturing to the concrete highway outside.

Aside from escalating property prices, the new wealth has boosted agricultural output in these parts, according to Ramos.

"Now that local folk are going abroad, capital is more readily available. Before we used carabao and our bare hands, but now tractors and other farm implements make the work less burdensome," he adds. *AFP*

Statement of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada

A CALL FOR PERSONAL SACRIFICE.

For everything, there is a time under the sun, as Ecclesiastes teaches us.

And the time has come to heed the appeal made by two of our respected religious leaders of the Iglesia ni Cristo, Executive Minister Brother Erano Manalo, and of the El Shaddai Movement, Brother Mike Velarde.

They urge today's national leaders to "sacrifice a portion of what they believe are theirs to hold on to, for the sake of our suffering people."

They ask so little by way of an offering of personal sacrifice from today's national leaders, yet more should have been asked of them - they who hold power and position, vested as they are with the responsibility and obligation to help the poor and the needy, and alleviating their sufferings.

Sacrificing even all, not merely a portion of what national leaders believe to be theirs to have and to hold, and done for the Filipino masses, is what the greatness of leadership is all about.

For power is fleeting, but greatness of the leadership in serving the people right, is not.

In 2001, I, the duly elected President and constitutional Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, made the supreme sacrifice of leaving Malacañan Palace while on official leave, to prevent blood from being spilled in the streets, and with hope high in me that my sacrifice would not have been in vain and that, perhaps, the people would have been served better under an acting government.

That sacrifice which I had offered freely, however, may have been put to waste, with the economy having deteriorated, causing more of our masses to suffer too much and with the nation remaining deeply divided under a new leadership, creating an atmosphere of constant political bickering being experienced today.

The political opposition can hardly offer to even sacrifice a portion of that which they hold on to, because the opposition holds neither power nor position.

It is today's leaders who hold power and position who must heed the call of the times and alleviate the sufferings of the Filipino people. This is their responsibility and their duty.

Let us therefore more than heed the call of Brother Manalo and Brother Mike for today's national leaders to offer that supreme sacrifice of giving up all that they believe is theirs to hold on to.

If I had more to offer by way of power and position, I would not hesitate to sacrifice all I can, and always for the Filipino masses, who I care deeply for, now and for all time.

Joseph Ejercito Estrada

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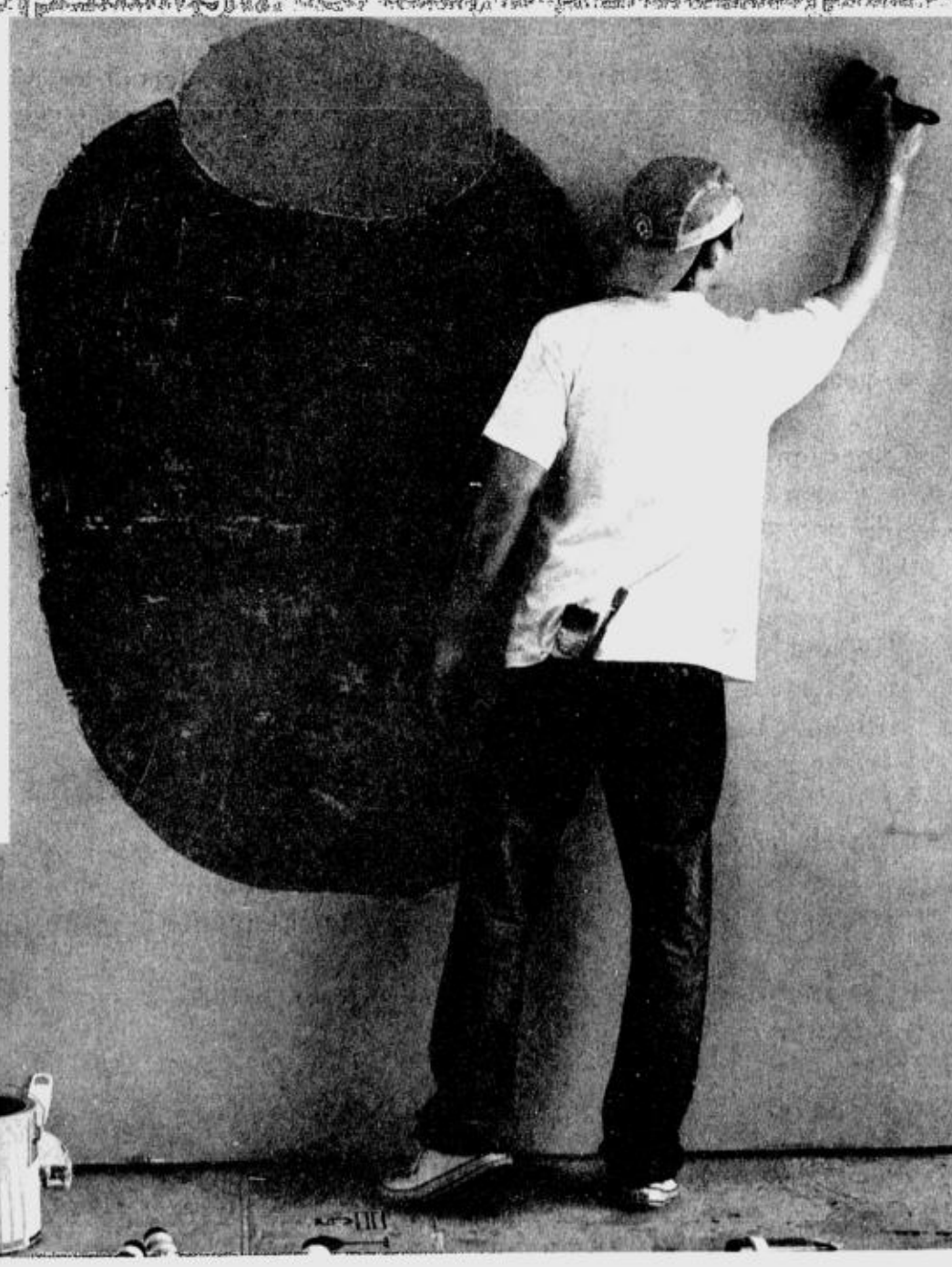

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Bro. Mike, Hyatt 10 push snap election

From page A1

make a "graceful exit" by cutting short her term. He also wants the holding of elections next year only after Charter change and a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

But local government officials and members of the House of Representatives adopted a manifesto on Thursday calling for Ms Arroyo to finish her term.

Vidal and Velarde met with big businessmen in Makati City about "10 days ago" and asked them to lobby Congress to pass the amendment to the Constitution that would allow the snap polls, Osmeña said on Saturday night.

Bullet amendment

"Since snap elections are not provided for in the Constitution, they thought that Congress sitting as a constituent assembly could pass a bullet amendment to the Constitution to be submitted to the people in a plebiscite calling immediately for snap elections," he said.

Osmeña said he was informed that Vidal and Velarde had requested the meeting. "They were testing the idea with the business community to see if they could get support and they could all go to Gloria and ask her to agree to this," the senator said.

Osmeña said the meeting at the Citibank Tower in Makati was attended by nine businessmen from the Makati Business Club, Financial Executives of the Philippines, Management Association of the Philippines and the Federation of Philippine Industries.

Delicate

Vidal confirmed last night having attended a meeting in Manila, but he said he had no authority to divulge anything about it. "The matter is a little delicate to divulge," he said.

"Whenever I am there, they take the opportunity to come and see me," he said, adding that people talk to him because they know "I am not *madaldal* (talkative)."

He said he was just a participant and that he didn't initiate anything.

Asked if he went to the Citibank Tower, he replied, laughing: "What I know is that I rode an elevator."

Also last night, Velarde confirmed that he and Vidal had met recently with leaders of the Makati Business Club and other business organizations and discussed a "joint effort with all sectors" to resolve the lingering crisis in the Arroyo presidency.

"The objective (of the meeting) is to unite everybody and establish a formula for principled cooperation," the influential leader of the Catholic charismatic group said in a message to the INQUIRER.

Constituent assembly

"This will be achieved by having a multi-partisan Cabinet immediately and work for the lifting of the term limits (of elective officials and) to pave the way for the holding of a presidential election in 2007," Velarde said.

Velarde said Congress should convene as a constituent assembly to propose a "simple amendment" to the Charter, which will lift term limits and provide for the 2007 elections. The amendment will be submitted to a plebiscite for approval.

Velarde said the amendment would be part of a four-step formula aimed at ensuring the cooperation of all sectors.

First is the setting up by Ms Arroyo of a multipartisan Cabinet. (Velarde earlier told the INQUIRER that he had proposed a 60-40 sharing of Cabinet posts, with more seats going to the opposition.)

Comelec cleanup

Next is the approval of the amendment by Congress and the people to be followed by the "cleanup of the Commission on Elections." Otherwise, Velarde said, the results of the plebiscite and elections would be questionable.

After the presidential election, Congress could tackle the proposal to shift to a parliamentary-federal system of government, he said.

Among the business leaders Velarde and Vidal reportedly met with were Ricardo Romulo, Cesar Buenaventura and Guillermo Luz of the MBC, which has called for Ms Arroyo's resignation, as as well as the chair of SGV.

Velarde felt the businessmen were "receptive" to the proposal, and one of them described it as a "winning formula."

Until Nov. 30

The Black and White Movement (BWM) has given De Castro until Nov. 30 to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo and to accept the proposal to take over the government as her constitutional successor.

If he agrees, a "welcome prayer rally" awaits him on that day, BWM convenor Vicente "Enteng" Romano III said. "Our message to him would be, 'Game *ka na ba* (Are you ready), Kabayan?'"

He said a "breakaway" by De Castro could hasten the downfall of Ms Arroyo, in the same manner that her "breakaway" from Joseph Estrada in 2000 weakened the Estrada presidency.

But if De Castro declined, BWM said it would support Senate President Franklin Drilon as "acting president," who shall call for a special election within 60 days as provided for in the Constitution.

"We will also declare De Castro an accomplice of GMA (Ms Arroyo) and that would give us the moral basis to junk him," Romano said.

In throwing their support behind De Castro, the BWM, which includes resigned Cabinet secretaries Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Florencio "Butch" Abad, Teresita "Ging" Deles and Imelda "Mely" Nicolas among its members, also "affirmed" its decision that Ms Arroyo should be replaced for cheating in the May 2004 elections.

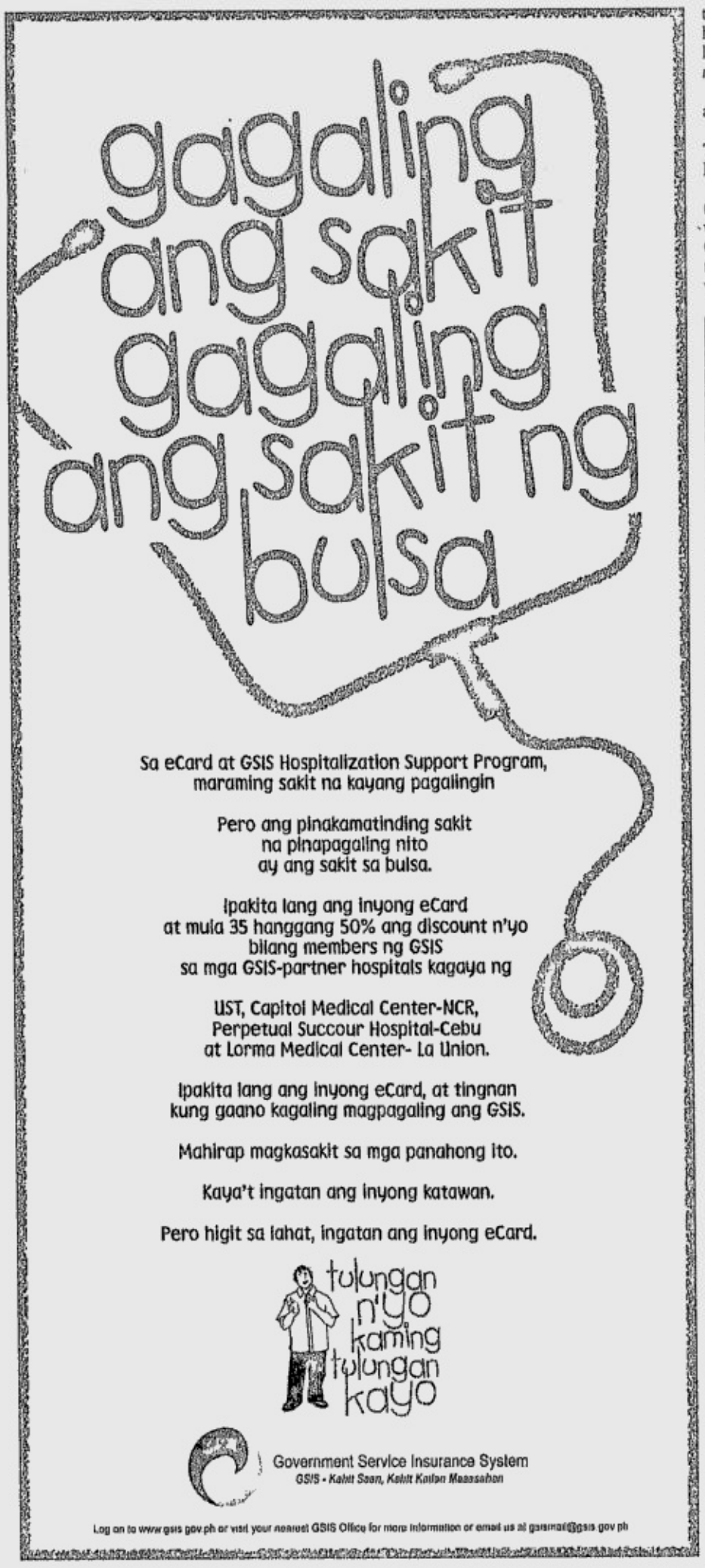
"After extensive deliberations, we have decided that our preferred option for regime change is for the Vice President to succeed as transition president until 2007, for him to install an advisory council and to agree to a popularly affirmed reform agenda," the group said in a resolution read at the closing of a daylong workshop on 'succession options' at the Ateneo High School open court on Saturday.

Abad said a delegation would meet with De Castro to explain the position and proposal made by the group. "This will need his concurrence," Abad said.

The resolution was signed by Abad, Soliman, Delez and Nicolas of the Hyatt 10, and BWM convenors Romano, Gerry Bulatao, Gus Lagman and Chito Gascon. They were joined by some 300 community leaders and organizers from as far away as Davao.

Saying Ms Arroyo was experiencing a "hardness of heart," a senior Roman Catholic bishop yesterday advised the President to heed the proposal to cut short her term and yield her post by 2007.

Bishop Teodoro Bacani said such a decision would once and for all calm a restless public and allow her to govern more effectively for less than two years, rather than when she insists on completing her term to 2010. *With reports from Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila*



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US troops here for exercises

ON BOARD THE USS ESSEX, SUBIC BAY Freeport—Some 4,500 American troops arrived here Saturday for the start of the annual amphibious landing exercises with their Filipino counterparts.

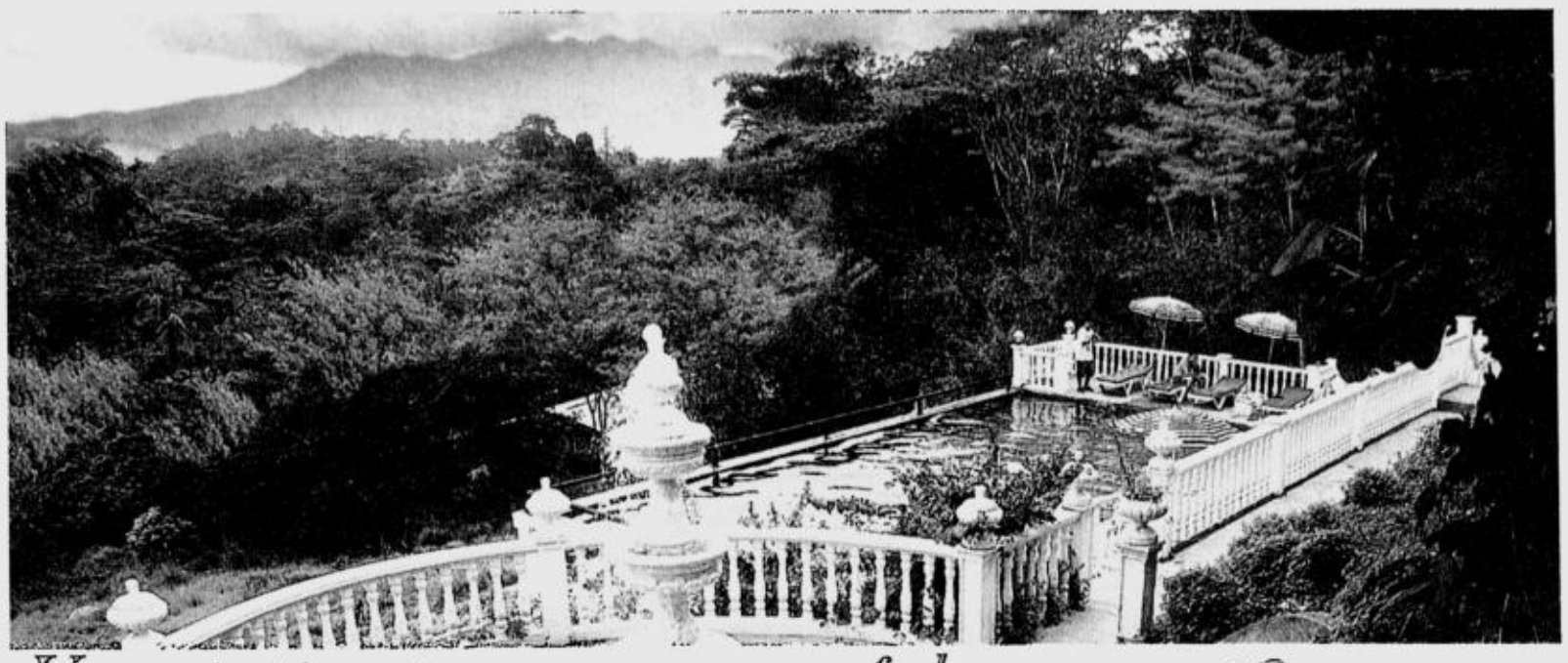
The bilateral training dubbed "Phiblex 06" will engage US sailors and Marines in a two-week ground, air and naval integration exercises with at least 500 members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Three amphibious ships—the USS Essex, USS Juneau and USS Fort McHenry—ferried the troops belonging to the Forward Deployed Amphibious Ready Group and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan.

"This exercise will maintain the readiness [and] capability of both the Philippine and US armed forces and goes a long way to supporting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region," said Capt. Mark Donahue of US Amphibious Squadron 11.

Donahue said the exercises would be held in Nueva Ecija, Cavite, Pampanga and Zambales.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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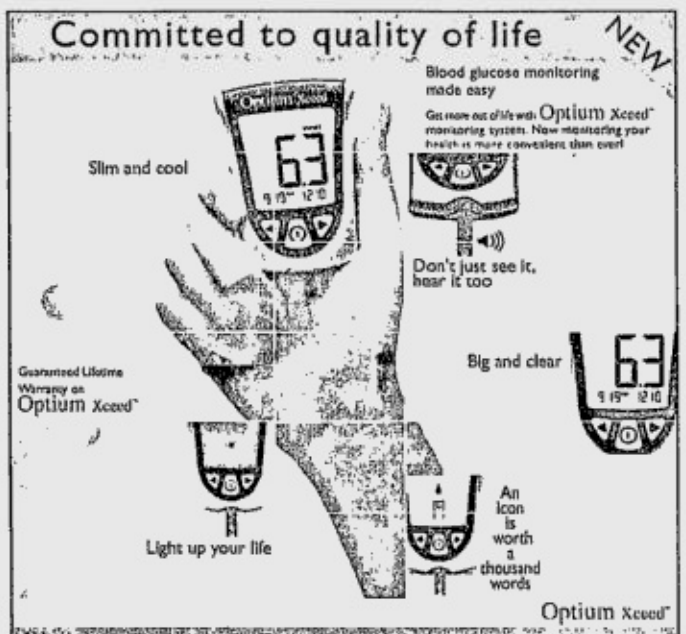

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Recruited to Australia? Read this

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS warned the public, especially Filipino nurses, against being illegally recruited to Australia, where the practice has become rampant following reports of a skills shortage there.

In a recent statement, the DFA said the Philippine Embassy in Canberra had received numerous complaints from victims of illegal recruiters and those with employment-related problems.

"It seems that the illegal recruiters are two steps ahead of us," Philippine Ambassador to Canberra Cristina Ortega admitted in the statement.

According to the embassy, illegal recruiters use tourist visas and short-term business visas, and charge exorbitant fees when offering non-existent jobs in Australia.

The DFA said the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration had issued an advisory saying it was not recruiting workers for Australia.

In the case of Philippine-trained nurses, Ortega said that even those with extensive experience in the Philippines and overseas might not immediately be hired in Australia because of the non-equivalency of qualifications between the two countries.

Before they could be employed in Australia, Philippine-trained nurses are required to take bridging courses that take from six months to a year.

The Philippine Embassy, Ortega said, had urged Australian authorities to allow bridging courses to be taken in the Philippines through counterpart universities or colleges.

"This will give protection to Filipino nurses and ensure that they are gainfully employed once they are deployed in Australia," Ortega said.

Nikko Dizon

E. V. Abueg; 87

RETIRED IBM EMPLOYEE ESTANISLAO VIrata Abueg died yesterday of a lingering illness at the age of 87.

He is survived by his daughter Myrna Abueg-Dungca, grandson Carlo Dungca, brother Dan Abueg, nephews and nieces, and in-laws.

His wife, Aurora Montes Abueg, passed away on Nov. 22, 2000.

His remains are at Chapel K of La Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment is on Wednesday, Oct. 26, at the North Cemetery after a Mass at 8 a.m.

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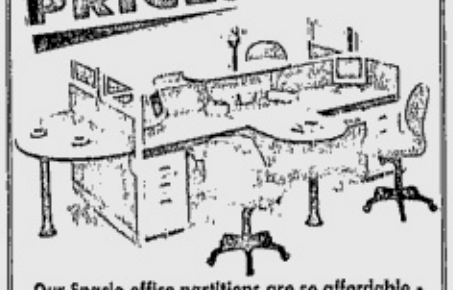

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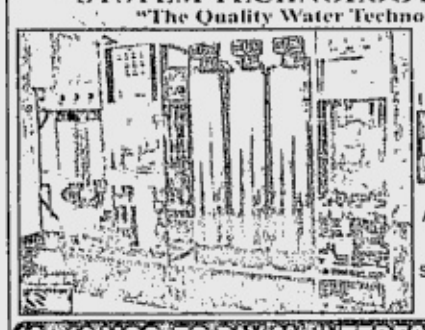

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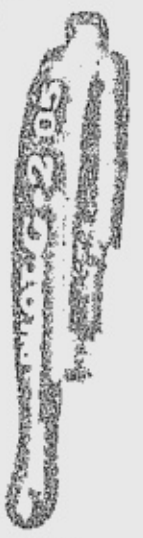

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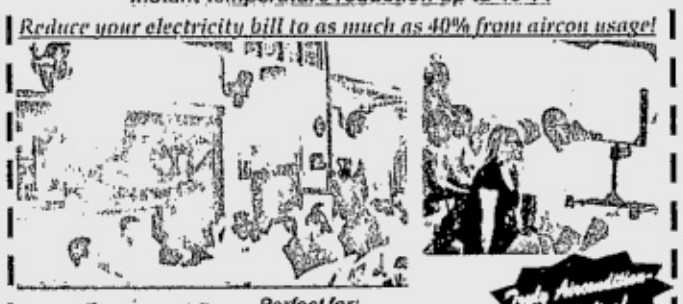

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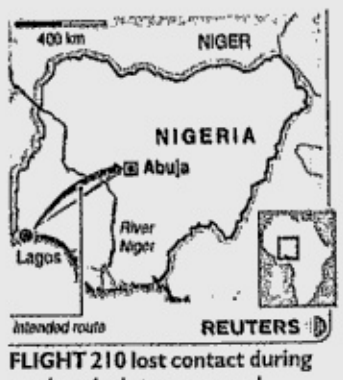
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Nigerian plane with 116 aboard crashes



FLIGHT 210 lost contact during an electrical storm several minutes after taking off. REUTERS

LAGOS—A Nigerian airliner with 116 people on board including some senior officials crashed shortly after taking off from Lagos en route to the capital Abuja, the government said on Sunday.

Bellview Airlines flight 210 took off at 8:45 p.m. (6:45 in Manila) on Saturday night and lost contact with the control tower minutes later during a heavy electrical storm.

Authorities located the wreckage of the Boeing 737-200 airliner in Kishi, Oyo state, in southwestern Nigeria about 200 km north of Lagos, a police source said about 12 hours later. It was not clear if there were any survivors, the source added.

"The government has been able to confirm that Bellview flight 210 may have gone down, thereby confirming our worst fears," Information Minister Frank Nweke told state radio earlier.

Emergency services launched a search and rescue mission.

The plane was carrying 116 people: 110 passengers and six crew, authorities said.

Initially, it was not known whether the plane had crashed, been hijacked or had made an emergency landing.

But the pilot made a distress call minutes after takeoff on Saturday night, indicating the plane had a technical problem, a source at the presidency told Reuters.

State radio reported that several high ranking government officials were on the plane, but did not name them.

The privately owned Nigerian airline is popular with expatriates. Western diplomats feared several of their citizens could also have been on board.

Dozens of flights run each day between the port of Lagos—one of the world's biggest cities—and Abuja in the heart of Africa's most populous nation.

Boeing spokesperson Liz Verdier told CNN by telephone from Seattle the company would work with the US National Transportation Safety Board if the board were asked to help with any investigation.

She said the 737 was the "workhorse of the world commercial jet fleet."

Bellview Airlines could not confirm the airliner had crashed 11 hours after it disappeared and concerned relatives at Lagos airport grew impatient with the lack of information.

"I am worried because nobody is talking to me," said Samuel Ojeikedion. *Reuters*

Wilma kills 8 in Mexico, roars toward Florida

CANCUN, MEXICO—REINVIGORATED AFTER a deadly strike on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, Hurricane Wilma roared Sunday toward Florida where storm-weary US authorities ordered widespread evacuations.

Wilma killed at least eight people in Mexican tourist resorts, and the Caribbean braced for more trouble as Tropical Storm Alpha also gathered strength, having become the record 22nd storm of the Atlantic season.

Looters were out on the streets of the resort of Cancun after Wilma headed out into the Gulf of Mexico leaving more than one meter of floods that stopped police preventing thefts.

Four bodies were found on the island of Cozumel, where there has been three days of torrential rain and roofs were ripped off many buildings.

The governor of Quintana Roo state said two people died in Playa del Carmen, one in Cancun and a fourth in Yucatan state crushed by a tree. Two fishermen were also missing at sea.

More than 71,000 people, many of them foreign tourists, remained in emergency shelters for a third day, unable to leave because of the floods and damage.

Looters in Cancun

Despite lingering winds, scores of looters were out at dawn in Cancun, raiding electrical stores for televisions, washing machines and other goods. They also targeted bookstores and clothing chains where only the plastic mannequins were left.

About 250 federal police reinforcements were expected in the region on Sunday. President Vicente Fox was also to tour stricken towns.

Floodwaters at one stage reached eight meters – the third story of some hotels – in Cancun on Saturday.

The storm wiped out electricity and telephone lines, and destroyed more than 1,000 homes in Playa del Carmen.

"Playa is destroyed," said Moises Ramirez, the town's civil defense chief.

Wilma also inflicted widespread damage on a naval base on Cozumel, officials said.

Cozumel, famous among skin and scuba divers, lay devastated following the storm, with streets flooded, according to the interior ministry.

At 1200 GMT, Wilma was about 500 km southwest of Key West in Florida, the US National Hurricane Center said.

In US by Monday

The hurricane is expected to hit the US coast on Monday. A category two storm on the Saffir-Simpson scale, it was still packing winds of nearly 160 km per hour and could strengthen during the day, the US monitors said.

Cuba, which could feel the storm on Sunday, has evacuated more than half a million people from its western provinces.

The Bahamas government has also issued a hurricane warning for its northwest areas.

Florida authorities ordered the mandatory evacuation of 80,000 residents of the Florida Keys islands on Saturday.

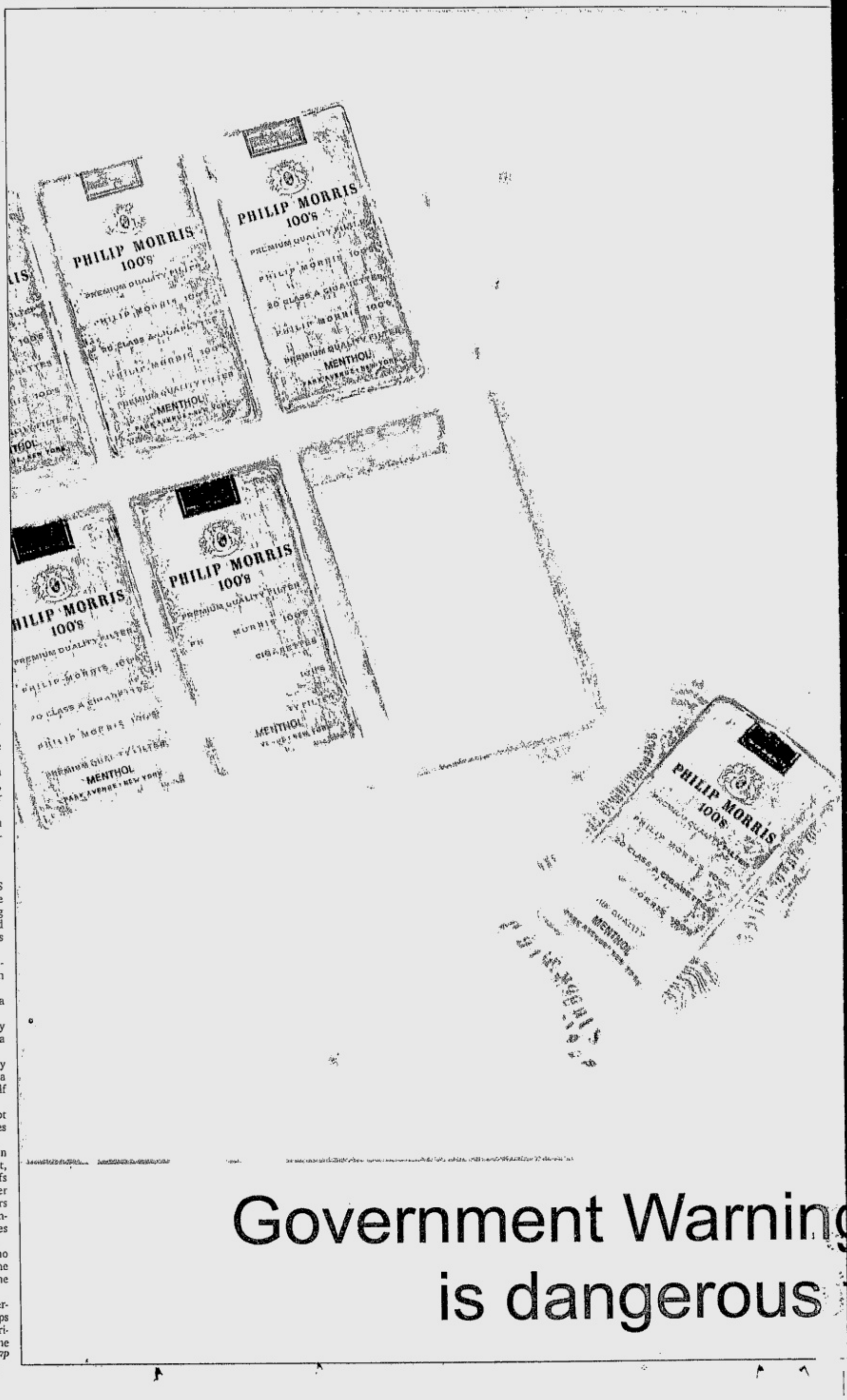
The southern United States has already seen four hurricanes this year. Hurricane Rita left more than 1,200 dead on the US Gulf Coast.

Many residents of Florida have still not cleared up the damage from other hurricanes over the past year.

At the Country Village Condominiums in Fort Lauderdale, on the western coast, where Wilma is expected to hit, the roofs of the homes of Carmen Keay and her neighbors still had blue tarpaulin covers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Hurricane Frances last year.

But Keay and some of her neighbors, who were expecting to have new roofs built in the next two weeks, say they plan to stay home even if Wilma comes their way.

Kristina Matas said she believes her water-stained ceiling will hold if Wilma sweeps across Florida as a category one or two hurricane. "If it was a five, I wouldn't be here," she said. *AFP*



Britain calls for EU ban on all imports of wild birds after parrot dies of bird flu

LONDON—BRITAIN IS PRESSING FOR a European Union (EU) ban on imports of all live wild birds from around the world after discovering that a South American parrot died from bird flu while in British quarantine.

As scientists tried to determine whether the parrot died of the strain which also kills people, Animal Welfare Minister Ben Bradshaw said his government made a formal request Saturday to the European Commission for such a ban.

There was "considerable" EU support for such a ban, which could be imposed within the coming week, he added.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), which Bradshaw oversees, said the government asked the commission to ban all "live wild birds" into Europe from anywhere in the world.

But imports of poultry, which are domesticated birds, would still be allowed, said a Defra spokesperson.

The European Union until now has banned bird imports from countries which have cases of avian flu, such as Romania, Thailand or Turkey, according to Defra.

Experts from Britain's Medical Research Council were due meanwhile to leave Sunday on a 10-day trip to China, Vietnam and Hong Kong to look at the way the disease was being monitored there and how to improve cooperation.

Bradshaw said in a BBC radio interview that the British government had been considering such a ban "for some time before the death of the parrot. It just so happens that the formal request has been made now."

He said the European Commission would also have to consider whether a ban would boost the illegal trade in wild birds, although the authorities have also stepped up monitoring of smuggling recently because of fears of bird flu.

Meanwhile, public health experts quoted by the Sunday Telegraph said exotic birds smuggled into Britain would provide the "Trojan Horse" for the spread of bird flu.

The Sunday Times said it is estimated that 250,000 exotic birds a year, half of the annual total brought into Britain, are smuggled.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) both appealed for an EU ban on wild birds after Friday's announcement that the parrot had died of bird flu.

Scientists were still trying to determine whether the parrot from Suriname in South America died of the H5N1 strain hitting southeast Asia, devastating poultry stocks and killing more than 60 people there.

Chief veterinary officer Debby Reynolds said the test results on the parrot would probably be made available on Sunday, or early in the week.

David Bowles, head of external affairs at the RSPCA, who pushed for the ban on wild birds, said Britain did not have the power alone to impose such a ban and had to rely on action taken at the European level. *AFP*

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World failed to grasp scale of quake disaster, says UN official

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan—The international community failed to grasp the scale of the South Asian earthquake and more than two weeks after the disaster, the response is still not enough, a UN relief official said Sunday.

Rashid Khalikov, the UN humanitarian aid area coordinator in this quake-hit capital of Pakistani Kashmir, said international relief agencies were "still coming to grips" with the disaster, which killed more than 50,000 people and left more than three million homeless in difficult mountain territory.

"Two weeks after the earthquake that devastated this region countless thousands (of people) need to be reached in high-altitude terrain," he told reporters.

"In the first few days after the earthquake the world clearly did not comprehend the magnitude and complexity of the disaster.

"Even now we are still coming to grips with the extent of the people's needs as new information comes in from previously inaccessible areas."

He said UN agencies, working alongside the Pakistani army and independent nongovernmental groups, had distributed 60,000 tents—nowhere near enough to protect the millions of destitute from the increasingly cold nights.

Another 190,000 tents were in the UN pipeline but more would be needed if the world body is to prevent what Secretary General Kofi Annan called a possible "second wave" of deaths as winter bites in the Himalayan region.

"From a logistical point of view this is possibly the most challenging emergency relief operation that the international humanitarian community has ever faced," Khalikov said.

In Pakistan-administered Kashmir alone, "some 800,000 people, or 150,000 families, are believed to be without shelter," he said.

"The scale of this calamity is beyond the capacity of any one country. The support of the international community is vital and it is essential that donors contribute the necessary funds as soon as possible."

He said only some $90 million of international aid pledges had been received in response to the UN's flash appeal for $312 million for immediate relief operations.

The flash appeal for last December's Asian tsunami disaster was more than 80 percent funded within 10 days of the event.

Khalikov said the UN only had seven helicopters to help distribute its aid throughout the region. This would rise to 12 in the coming days but even then the world body would not have enough aircraft to do the job, he said.

As for tents, the aid coordinator said the world was being scoured for more.

"All the tents available in the world are being eyed for this relief operation," he said. *AFP*

Many foreigners have joined fight vs US forces in Iraq

By Claudia Parsons

BAGHDAD—MORE THAN 300 FOREIGN fighters have been captured in Iraq by US-led troops and Iraqi security forces since April and their nationalities include Israeli, Irish and British, a senior US commander said on Thursday.

Most came from other Arab states, however, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch said as the secretary general of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, made a long-awaited visit to Baghdad to discuss how fellow Arab countries could help Iraq with its security.

"Terrorists and foreign fighters" were responsible for some of the worst insurgent attacks, such as suicide car bombings, Lynch said. But he said US-led forces had foiled several attacks by arresting or killing many of them in recent months.

He told a news briefing 375 foreign fighters had been captured this year, of whom 310 were detained since the start of April. No comparable figures for the total number of guerrilla suspects captured were available, although some 12,000 are currently held in jail, most of those Iraqis.

The countries of origin most represented were Egypt (78), Syria (66), Sudan (41) and Saudi Arabia (32). The list included several other Middle Eastern countries and a number of European states such as France (1) as well as two Indians and an American.

Lynch declined to give any further details about the one Israeli on the list, or the suspect from Ireland and two from Britain.

He said Iraq's al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was trying to bring in more foreign fighters because many of his Iraqi associates had been rounded up or killed.

"Zarqawi since January has lost 100 of his leaders," Lynch said. "What we've found is he's replacing his leaders with foreign fighters, presumably because they're most inclined to carry out these ruthless attacks against the Iraqi people." *Reuters*

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OPINION

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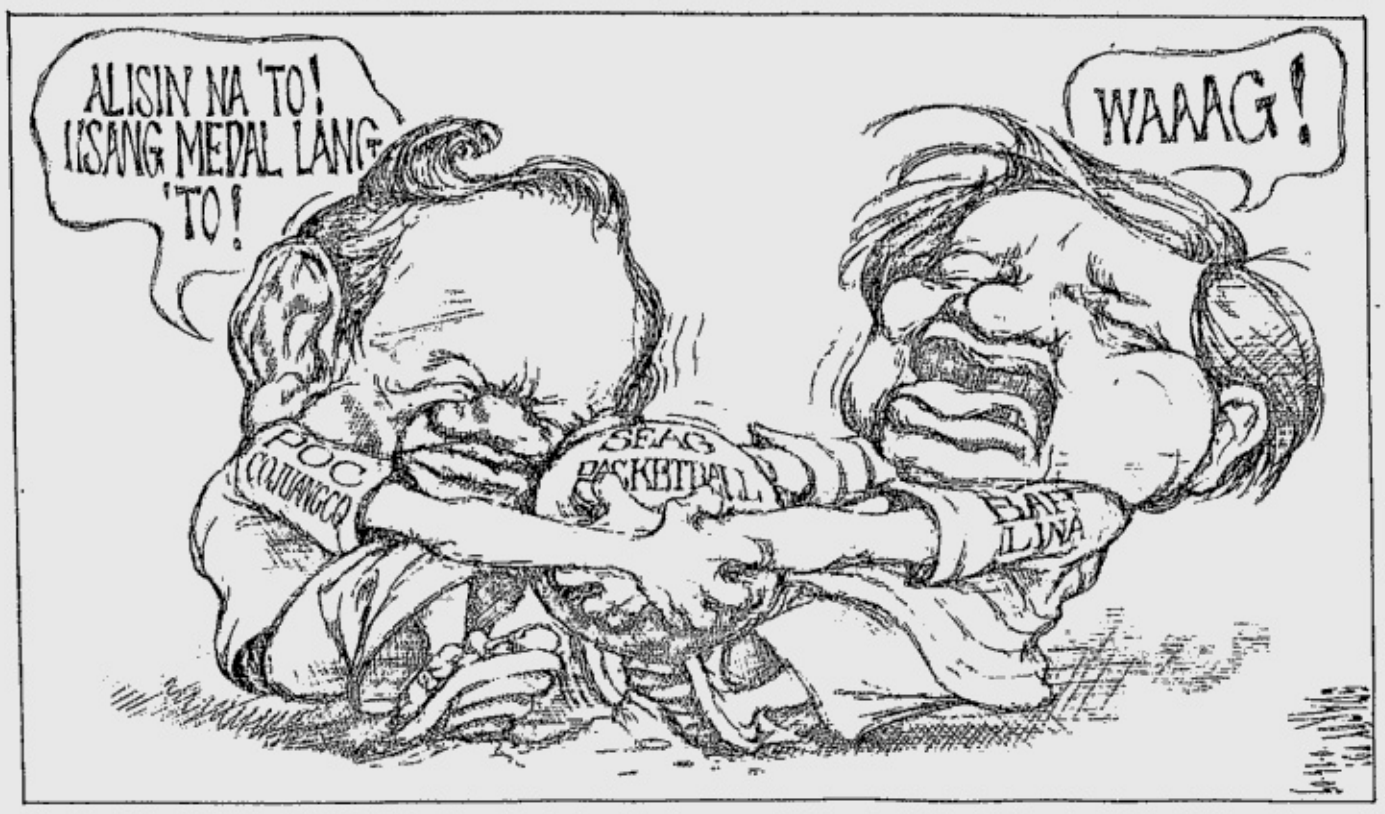

Hello, Bunye?

EDITORIAL

THE REVELATION THAT MALACAÑANG IS CONsolidating its communications and public relations machinery under Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and the Presidential Communications Group adds fuel to the fire of public skepticism.

We think the public's wariness about the administration's deepest motives is not centered on the idea itself. Even a staunch anti-Arroyo senator like Sergio Osmeña III admits there may be a need for it. "In politics, in public service, one of the most important responsibilities of a public official is to communicate your vision, your message, to the entire citizenry," he told reporters last week. "That's why you have a spokesman; that's why you have a Bunye."

The problem is that the consolidation is taking place at the exact time reports of a possible emergency rule are sweeping the media. And that Bunye is now in charge of it.

In many respects, the genial Bunye has been an ideal spokesman for the President. He is fluent in the official languages, is almost always accessible, is normally graceful under pressure. Not least, he enjoys President Macapagal-Arroyo's confidence; unlike Jerry Barican, the public intellectual who once spoke for the populist President Joseph Estrada, there is no similar disconnect between Bunye and the president he speaks for. They are both professional politicians.

Indeed, one can say that they both may be too professional. Since the Hello Garci scandal broke—or rather, since Bunye helped break the news about the alleged wiretapping controversy himself on June 6—both the President and her spokesman have conducted themselves at times as though political survival was the only virtue.

Bunye's own role in foisting what looks to be a grand deception on both the public and the House of Representatives, in the matter of the Garcillano tapes, remains underinvestigated. An INQUIRER special report has shown that the idea of presenting two compact disks to the Malacañang press corps—one purportedly fake (the Garcillano version) and the other allegedly original (the one which supposedly caught the President conversing with political operator Gary Ruado)—was hatched by a crisis committee a day or two before Bunye's surprise announcement.

It has been more than a month since that special report saw print, but Bunye (who was depicted in it as agonizing over the right thing to do) has not issued a denial or even a rebuttal. It was thus no surprise when Rep. Roilo Golez called for a resumption of the joint committee hearing into the Garcillano tapes, precisely because Bunye's continuing silence could be construed as consent: "this very serious article that enumerated very serious allegations about what was supposed to be behind the Garci tape [has] remained unrebutted and unanswered by Malacañang, especially the Palace spokesman, especially Secretary Bunye, who was liberally quoted here."

Golez, who broke publicly with the President at the height of the political crisis, may simply be looking for additional justification for his dramatic breakaway. But he does raise a valid point: By sticking to the official line that there were two CDs, and that these came into his possession in mysterious circumstances, did Bunye, in fact, perjure himself before Congress?

That question acquires new meaning now—now that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has confirmed the plan to place Bunye in charge of the government's entire communications and public relations machinery.

Osmeña reacted to the news about Bunye being named the government's "media czar" by accentuating the negative. "[There is] also the need of some people to control the news—in other words, being able to suppress what is not nice. Bunye is very good at doing the second." (Osmeña may know whereof he speaks, having once been allied with the President herself.)

But if Bunye did in fact resolve the personal agony he went through in the early days of June by embracing the crisis committee's plan to set a cover-up in motion, then we have no choice but to heed Osmeña's cautionary words. Unless the provenance of the Hello Garci tapes is established once and for all, and Bunye's role in it explained, every pronouncement of the new Presidential Communications Group will always be viewed with suspicion. Someone, somewhere, will always wonder: Is this original, or fake?

What's so special about Mendiola anyway?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE LONGER ATE GLUE STAYS GLUED TO HER seat in Malacañang, the more Metro Manila looks like a stalag, a concentration camp with barbed wire, coils of razor wire, steel barricades, container vans and thousands of police guards everywhere. These, together with the pink fences of the Metro Manila Development Authority, have made the metropolis look like an extension of Laguna Lake with its long lines of fishtraps. Except that these are herding humans.

Unwittingly, however, Ate Glue has made herself a prisoner as she barricades herself in Malacañang against the people she is supposed to serve—so like the tyrants of old, afraid of their subjects. All because she wants to keep the people away from Mendiola Street.

What's so special about Mendiola anyway? Why are the government and the people fighting over this little piece of land, less than one hectare in size, like a no man's land in World War I?

Ate Glue wants to keep the militant ralliers off it because it is too near Malacañang. The presence in 2001 of a mob there—Ate Glue's supporters then—that was poised to rush to the presidential palace, forced then President Estrada to hurriedly leave Malacañang, giving Ate Glue an excuse to take over. Ate Glue doesn't want the same thing to be done to her. It would be just poetic justice or a tooth for a tooth, but Ate Glue is too paranoid to leave anything to chance. For the tenant in Malacañang, Mendiola is like the West Bank and the Golan Heights in the Holy Land; it serves as the buffer zone between safety and the enemies outside.

For the people, however, Mendiola is a symbol of freedom. This is the site of the Mendiola Massacre, where 18 farmers airing their grievances at a rally were shot dead by government troops. This is the site of the Chino Roces monument, where the late newspaper publisher was hosed down with water cannon along with other leaders opposed to the tyrant Marcos. (The minions of another tyrant hosed down another group of protesters recently.) From that site, the people, therefore, want to voice their grievances.

Protesters will keep trying to occupy it like a piece of high ground in a real war. And the administration will just as likely defend it stubbornly, probably even sacrifice lives for it. But the more Mendiola is made off limits to them, the more it becomes desirable, the more the militants will try harder to take it. Capturing it would be a victory of sorts.

So Mendiola is like a powder keg with the fuse lit. Once blood is shed there again, Mendiola will blow skyhigh, and Ate Glue with it.

What Ate Glue needs is a little bit of psychology. Like a field commander giving up territory to be able to move to a better defensive position, she should allow protesters to use Mendiola. What's wrong with that? Malacañang can be defended better by putting barricades across Mendiola Bridge itself. But if the street is open to them anytime, it would lose its desirability to the protesters. Because they wouldn't have to fight for it anymore.

It would be like Plaza Miranda, Liwasang Bonifacio and the Luneta now. They are open to rallies anytime, no permit necessary. But the militants don't want to hold their rallies there. They want to hold them at Mendiola because they are banned from using it as a rally site. But ban them from Plaza Miranda, Liwasang Bonifacio and the Luneta, and the militants will fight to rally in those places. The Tagalogs have a saying for it: *Kung ano ang bawal, iyon ang mas masarap* (What is prohibited is more desirable).

Ate Glue is putting the health and lives of policemen at unnecessary risk by insisting on defending Mendiola. That street has no real strategic value. I'm sure the more intelligent policemen and their officers know this but they have been brainwashed to obey orders. But like a compassionate commander who orders a retreat to save his troops, Ate Glue should care enough for her troops to do something similar. Giving them medals and spot promotions is mere *consuelo de bobo*. Unlike the Filipino, Mendiola is not worth dying for; it is not worth the life of a policeman.

With every dispersal, the people only get angrier and more of them are joining protest rallies. But allow them to march and rally anytime; they will soon get tired of rallies which will become so commonplace.

The fear of older sister Cielo Macapagal-Salgado for her little sister's life has real basis. Those desperate farmers and fishermen who marched for one week from their homes in Central and Southern Luzon in order to air their grievances are really very angry, and anyone of them might just be foolish and desperate enough to try something deadly.

The farmers' march should open the eyes of Ate Glue and her allies to the poverty in the countryside. They have to do something to alleviate it—not exacerbate it as they are doing when they insist on the EVAT.

Ate Glue keeps asking for "reconciliation and unity," even gate-crashing into a dinner of senators to make *sipsip* with them; but with every violent dispersal of a rally, "reconciliation and unity" move farther away. Any sensible person will see that the fascistic moves of Ate Glue only drive more people to the other side.

She is no longer the spoiled brat who always gets what she wants. She now claims to be the "president" of all Filipinos. She should act like one.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: First Gentleman Mike Arroyo returned home to launch a new career. Encouraged by the big purses won by Manny Pacquiao and two other Filipino boxers in Las Vegas recently, Big Mike decided to turn professional boxer (although sumo wrestling would be more appropriate for him).

His ring name: Money Pakyaw.

Black and white

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CORAZON AQUINO SAYS SHE REGRETS having helped Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo become President. "I plead guilty to the fact that I thought that GMA would be a better alternative to Estrada," she told the Black and White Movement last weekend. "When Cardinal Sin and I made our decision, that was very, very easy because we thought that GMA could do better than Erap." That is not the case today. Today's "alternative (Noli de Castro) has not been as attractive."

Well, the good thing there is that Cory has apologized for having been party to the crime that is GMA. The reason I have been reluctant to attend Black and White activities is that I have yet to hear the others, notably Dinky Soliman and Bill Luz, who are just as guilty as Cory of the crime, if not more so, apologize as well. Soliman was most responsible for ruining civil society by making it appear it was behind GMA all the way—it will take years before that sector gets to regain its credibility, if at all. And Luz was most responsible for giving the last elections a patina of legitimacy, by throwing Namfrel's name behind claims it was "generally clean." Poor Joe Con, no wonder he has disappeared in shame.

Their call is for GMA not just to apologize but to resign. My call is for them not just to resign but to apologize. And give back what they took. Returning the Peace Bonds should be a step in that direction for Dinky. Revealing the real results of the elections should be another for Bill. There is no contrition without restitution.

But I'm still bothered by two things about Cory's apology.

The first is that she apologizes for the wrong thing. No one particularly minds that she helped GMA become president. We all did. What is there to apologize for? Taking part in the struggle to oust Erap was something to be proud of, even if it produced the nasty result of putting GMA in power. We are not prescient like God, we are fallible like Adam. We cannot know the future. We were right to fight Erap in the same way that we were right to fight Marcos. But we were wrong to allow GMA to become what she is today.

Which brings me to the point: Cory et al. have nothing to apologize for in Edsa II, but they have everything to apologize for in what happened afterward. We are not born prescient, but we are not born blind either. Is it possible neither Cory, nor Dinky, nor Bill nor any of those who propped up GMA until July this year had the eyes to see what she was made of? Or were they so blinded by power they refused to see it? Is it possible they could not see GMA's ambitions knew no bounds, she was willing to compromise with the Erap camp so soon after she rode the crest of Edsa II? Is it possible they could not see she had dictatorial tendencies she rode on the crest of 9/11 imposing de facto military rule on this country, telling arrogantly the citizens who brought her to power that they were either for her or against her? Is it possible they could not see she would not be deterred by niceties like honesty when she vowed not to run again on Rizal's grave and did?

Yet they were right behind her when she ran for president. They turned a blind eye to the ransacking of the public treasury during the campaign, they turned a blind eye to the patent cheating in the elections, and they turned a blind eye to the manufactured results. Some of them not just turning a blind eye to all of the above, but actively, deliberately, and enthusiastically aiding and abetting it. That is what they have to apologize for.

But more than that, Cory apologizes for the wrong thing for the wrong reasons. What does it mean when someone says it was easy to replace Erap with GMA but not GMA with Noli? It means, firstly, that ousting a tyrant—or worse, a usurper—is not a matter of necessity but of choice, depending on whether there is a "suitable replacement" or not. It means, secondly, thinking in terms of personalities rather than principles—depending on whether the successor is friend or foe. And it means, thirdly, thinking like a powerbroker, decreeing who is to come and who is to go.

I personally joined Edsa II because I believed ousting Erap was a categorical imperative: He had betrayed the public trust. I accepted GMA despite the fact that I distrusted her for hiding under the bed, or under Cory's skirt, because that was what the Constitution demanded: the vice president succeeds the president in the event of vacancy. That was never a problem. The problem was that a group of people who thought GMA was their protégé continued to back her up despite her vicious betrayal of the dreams of Edsa II. Indeed, who continued to think like powerbrokers and, believing she would be a better alternative as well to FPJ, helped her cheat him of the presidency. Still indeed, who even now continue to think like powerbrokers, looking this time for another personality as an alternative to GMA herself.

I personally have no problems accepting De Castro if that is what the Constitution says should happen. But as I've been saying again and again, when GMA goes, it won't be a case of the presidency being vacated, it will be a case of the presidency never having been occupied. GMA is not the president, she never won the elections. The alternative is clear as black and white: GMA is not the elected president, let us have an elected president. The last elections were a sham, let us have real elections. The alternative is not someone a group of powerbrokers may demand, it is someone only the voters may decree. The one element that has been absent all this time is the people. It's time we brought them back into the picture.

We don't do that, and the Black and White and other groups can talk alternatives all they want, but all that'll do is leave us black and blue.

No permit, no rally

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

WHEN YOU READ BP 880, YOU WILL FIND THAT, in general, it makes a lot of sense. But then the reading of it can be colored by one's view of what a good society should be like or by how much poverty or government decisions affect one's life.

Begin with the title of the law. It almost sounds idyllic: "An Act Ensuring The Free Exercise By The People Of Their Right Peaceably To Assemble And Petition The Government And For Other Purposes." This is followed by a declaration of policy: "The constitutional right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances is essential and vital to the strength and stability of the State. To this end, the State shall ensure the free exercise of such right without prejudice to the rights of others to life, liberty and equal protection of the law."

The overriding policy is freedom. True, freedom is not absolute. It is subject to limitations. But limitation is whence controversy arises. How do you read the phrase "without prejudice to the rights of others to life, liberty and equal protection of the law"? It is here where an individual's reading can be colored by his view.

It is important to consider that we are dealing here with not just any kind of right. We are dealing here with the right of assembly and petition, which is a cognate of the freedom of expression. Historically, the right of petition is the primary right; the right peaceably to assemble, a subordinate and instrumental right, as if the guarantee would read: "the right of the people peaceably to assemble" in order to "petition the government." Thus we are dealing with what jurisprudence classifies as a "preferred right," which the law surrounds with protection more vigorous than what is given other rights.

For ordinary rights, like for instance the right to use the roads or to be free from offensive noise, the standard for allowable limitation is "reasonableness." For "preferred rights," however, the standards for allowable limitation are more stringent.

In the early stages of Philippine jurisprudence, the accepted rule was that speech, together with assembly and petition, may be curtailed when it "creates a dangerous tendency which the State has the right to prevent." This standard has been labeled the "dangerous tendency" rule. All it requires for the limitation of assembly and petition is that there be a rational connection between the speech and the evil feared. For instance, if one says, "Let's start a riot," under the "dangerous tendency rule" that would already be punishable even if the possibility of a riot actually taking place is remote.

The dangerous tendency rule has been rejected by jurisprudence (but I heard one administration congressman advocating its resurrection). Now in its place is the "clear and present danger rule." The rule says: "The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent. It is a question of proximity and degree." Put differently, "In each case, [courts] must ask whether the gravity of the 'evil,' discounted by its improbability, justifies such invasion of free speech as is necessary to avoid the danger."

Does BP 880 accept this rule? The law says that when an application for a permit for an assembly is filed: "It shall be the duty of the mayor or any official acting in his behalf to issue or grant a permit unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the public assembly will create a clear and present danger to public order, public safety, public convenience, public morals or public health."

During an actual rally itself, BP 880 prescribes not "calibrated preemptive response" but "maximum tolerance." It defines maximum tolerance as "the highest degree of restraint that the military, police and other peacekeeping authorities shall observe during a public assembly or in the dispersal of the same." Specifically, BP 880 also says: "Tear gas, smoke grenades, water cannons, or any similar anti-riot device shall not be used unless the public assembly is attended by actual violence or serious threats of violence, or deliberate destruction of property."

There are, however, words in BP 880's statement of the "clear and present danger rule" which, I believe, are misplaced. I am referring to the words "public convenience." Many people have very low tolerance for inconvenience. Should such low level of tolerance be used as the norm for restricting "preferred rights"? I do not think so. Precisely, they are preferred over inferior rights such as the right not to be inconvenienced.

Even as early as 1907, our Court could already say: "It is rather to be expected that more or less disorder will mark the public assembly of the people to protest against grievances whether real or imaginary, because on such occasions, the feeling is always wrought to a high pitch of excitement, and the greater the grievance and the more intense the feeling, the less perfect, as a rule, will be the disciplinary control of the leaders over their irresponsible followers."

In other words, causing inconvenience in the course of exercising the right of assembly and petition is not criminal conduct. Or, as former Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion said in 1937, "So long as the use of public property [even] for religious purposes is incidental and temporary, and such as to be reasonably compatible with the use to which other members of the community are similarly entitled, or may be authorized to make," there is no valid reason for restricting it.

Alas, such standard is not acceptable under the present regime.

New dev't models needed to lift poor

COMMENTARY

Gemma Rita R. Marin
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IS REELING INTO ITS FIFTH month. Sadly, there seems to be no clear route to its end. Influential and supposedly well-meaning groups or individuals have suggested some solutions out of this rut. But with every proposition, the situation only becomes more complicated.

The ultimate and unwilling victim in this kind of predicament are the ordinary Filipinos who must have undergone a schizophrenic, roller-coaster ride of emotions in the last five months. First, it was anger mixed with exasperation. Why the need to put up with a President who spoke to a Comelec official at the height of the elections, and yet remains adamant about staying in the presidency after admitting her "lapse in judgment"?

After the confusion comes disillusionment. Rightist elements mingle with the left and vice versa. Politicians jump from one party to another, from the majority bloc to the minority, and back to the majority. Administration people suddenly belong to the opposition, or the other way around, then decide to become independent.

Still, one cannot help but become cynical at times. When a former top official suggests a process for resolving the crisis, is he eyeing a government position or, perhaps, the highest office of the land? When a loser in the elections comes up with an exposé, is the noise just sour grapes or is he simply wanting attention? When a congressman makes a turnaround on his stand accepting or rejecting the report of the House justice committee on the impeachment issue, does it mean he got paid or he was summoned to remember previous debts?

It is not hard to understand why Filipinos become resigned to their plight when all possible means to ferret out the truth are exhausted, but to no avail. Feeling themselves caught in a seemingly hopeless situation, they would rather implore the help of the Almighty.

I was reminded of this myriad of feelings while I was reviewing the issues preparatory to formulating ICSI's Rural Development Program. It somehow amused me that the issues looked a lot like they never changed, the same issues the rural poor have been facing for a long while.

Landlessness in the countryside remains pervasive, and poverty among small farmers is still widespread. The 10-year period for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, which was supposed to end in 1998, was extended; and to this day CARP has yet to see completion. Based on the records of the Department of Agrarian Reform, 3.5 million hectares or 82 percent of the 4.3 million hectares covered by CARP have been distributed as of Dec. 31, 2004. This report is based on the number of Emancipation Patents (EPs) and Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) issued, not on the actual number of beneficiaries the program has physically installed on the lands that have been purportedly awarded. Reports also reveal that the accomplishments in land acquisition and distribution are merely "paper victories," given the many EP/CLOA cancellations and the delaying tactics and non-cooperation of some landowners.

In a recent policy forum on agrarian reform that I attended, a staff from the NGO-Kaisahan, representing 312 farmer-beneficiaries (FBs) based in two barangays in Calatagan, Batangas, could not contain her anger and frustration over DAR's disorderly processes and lack of transparency in canceling EPs. The farmers were awarded EPs on the Ascue property in 1989, only to find out that the same piece of land had been sold to Asturias Chemical Industries, which got another title in 1994, or five years after the land was awarded to them. Consolidated cases were filed and won by the FBs in 1998. Four years after, the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudicatory Board overturned the decision, declaring the property as mineral land, and rendering the EPs/CLOAs null and void. The farmers protested but their complaint has yet to be addressed. The farmers had been paying for the land, which they might not get to own, for more than 10 years.

There are about 17 existing laws that provide a policy framework for land use. Most common among these are the CARP of 1988, the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra) of 1997, the Local Government Code of 1991, the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) of 1992, the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 and the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. These laws, however, were formulated using a sectoral and fragmented approach, occasionally causing confusion among the stakeholders. In the end, these laws failed: to set the priorities for land use; to ensure that majority of the affected sectors would be benefited; and to put premium on long-term sustainability, local productive capacity and overall social equity. Instead, the interests of other stakeholders, especially those with political and economic influence, have led to the displacement of farming communities and indigenous peoples, the proliferation of informal settlements, low productivity of land, and environmental degradation. A draft National Land Use Act (NLUA), filed during the 9th Congress, remains until today a draft in the House of Representatives, with no version yet from the concerned Senate Committee.

On the matter of access to credit, hefty amounts from local and foreign sources have been poured into microfinance lending for the poor. Whether formal financial institutions indeed allocate the funds for the use of the poor is very much in doubt. The high risks and huge costs of transactions that go with microfinance lending have served to discourage many rural banks and other formal institutions from expanding their exposure beyond 30 percent of their portfolio.

All sorts of lobbying and mobilization have been resorted to for asset redistribution and greater social equity and productivity among the rural poor. But structural obstacles practically confront the lowly farmers and small stakeholders all the way from production to marketing. These obstacles—market monopolies, meager budgets and low level of investments in infrastructure and support facilities, bureaucratic "red tape," and stiff competition induced by globalization, among others—have left these people with no choice but to put up with these dire realities.

There must be some other recourse. There ought to be alternatives for the rural poor. New models are being developed and tested. But these alternative structures and approaches should now be put in place and, more importantly, should work to narrow down the social and economic divide in the countryside.

Let them eat cake

COMMENTARY

Fr. Ferdinand Santos, Ph.D.

THE SEEMING CONFLUENCE OF POLITICAL and economic crises in the Philippines has become truly alarming and worrisome. The expanded value-added tax law that is set to be fully implemented, and which is supposedly meant to get the country back on track to fiscal stability, cannot but worsen the already deepening national depression. Filipinos have a tendency to regard political crises in pretty much the same way they see *telenovelas*. They're for entertainment purposes.

An economic crisis, however, is different. It will hit too close to home for too many. In fact, it will hit them where it hurts most: their stomachs. Hunger is no *telenovela*. It's much too concrete, and too painfully real.

True or not, the EVAT law is supposedly meant, among other things, to stave off a full-blown economic crisis by raising revenue for a cash-strapped government—revenue that will hopefully be used to expand and improve basic services. And there's the rub. Will it? This is where the insensitivity and callousness of those who claim people must now swallow this bitter pill are particularly galling. Would that they would watch their facial expressions; or, perhaps, they don't even realize the full implication of what they say. I get the suspicion that the latter is most often the case.

There is truth to the opinion that to a considerable extent, the hands of the nation's leaders are tied. Though, it is well for them to remember that tragedies are fashioned by hands that are tied. Bitter pills need to be swallowed at times. The question is why? To begin with, the needed bitter pill would not have been necessary if corruption were minimized. I say "minimized," not "eradicated." Let's be realistic, no government on earth is free of corruption. The difference between developed nations and laggard ones is not that the former have eradicated corruption and wastage; it's rather that they have managed to minimize such that much of the communal pie still makes it to the tables of the majority of the people. In laggard nations, on the other hand, corruption and wastage of revenue eat up the greater portion of the pie and little to nothing is left for the impoverished majority.

Second, the needed bitter pill unfortunately seems to have very little chance of actually alleviating the current state of affairs. There is no guarantee that the majority will now, or even in the near future, receive a greater or, at least a greater portion, of the national pie. Added revenue for a cash-strapped government means zilch if it will only be squandered once more in corruption and waste—the situation which has, to a considerable extent, brought about the need to raise taxes in the first place. Unless corruption is stemmed, we shall enter into one of those vicious cycles that in history are usually remedied only with much bloodletting. When the cancer has spread, dire measures take the place of bitter pills.

Medication is taken because while it may be bitter and painful at first, the point is to eventually lead the sick to recovery, to the point when the bitterness is no longer necessary. This presumes the will, the intention and the sincerity of the one administering medication to actually heal the sick. The question then is: "Is this the intention of those who now insist that this bitter pill is necessary?" Only time will tell if such is the case. But time is running out, and judging from the past and recent actuations of those supposedly interested in curing the sick and feeding the starving majority, the health of the nation is the last thing in their minds. Alas.

It is no consolation, but we must take heart. Dictators never last, the corrupt eventually become maggot-food. Evil men and women eventually fall, often with a resounding thud, their memory spat upon by those who survive their infamy. Time and time again, we witness those who seek to impose their will or themselves lose out when the leveling comes. And it always does. Filipinos must be ready to seize the moment when it comes. The great Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette eventually lost their heads in the revolution that engulfed France in the 18th century. Marie Antoinette's insensitivity to the poor of her nation is immortalized in those words she purportedly uttered: "Let them eat cake."

It is well for our insensitive leaders to go back and learn from history, and understand the underlying roots and core causes of the upheavals that turned the world upside down in the 18th century. They weren't simply political, though the ruling classes of Church and State had reached the pinnacle of decadence. At the heart of the bloodbaths of that age was a confluence of political and economic factors that had become too complex, neither crown nor church could stem the revolutionary tide. Tragedies are fashioned by hands that are tied.

Bitter pills will work for as long as there's a point and an end to it. So let them see the rationale behind the medication, and give them hope that the treatment will eventually end. Spend the revenue well. Otherwise, you might as well be suggesting they "eat cake."

Filipinos have survived even with their freedoms trampled upon. They have in recent memory risen in revolt, but because they did so not with empty stomachs, they made their case through peaceful means. Edsa I and II are testaments to that. But many of them are seriously hungry now. And when people begin to starve, bloodletting isn't too far off.

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Flash mobs as protest

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN NEW YORK CITY, ON JULY 2, 2003, AN E-MAIL circulated, telling recipients to assemble at the food court in Grand Central Station, where organizers (identifiable by the copies of the New York Review of Books they were holding) gave those who showed up printed instructions regarding what to do next.

The result, according to media reports, was that shortly after 7 p.m., about 200 people suddenly assembled on the mezzanine level of the Grand Hyatt Hotel next to Grand Central Station, applauded loudly for 15 seconds, then left.

Media reported this with bemused interest; the phenomenon was baptized: "flash mobs," with participants being called "mobbers." Organizers grandly titled their efforts the "Mob Project." Other cases involved a similar number of people showing up at Macy's, peering at a carpet, and asking a puzzled salesman about the "love rug"; a crowd in a shoe shop in Soho pretending to be tourists on a bus holiday from Maryland; hundreds of people perched on a stone ledge in Central Park making bird noises. There was a case of "drunken, scary Santas" in San Francisco.

CNN reported that the first European mob took place in Rome on July 24, 2003, when 300 people entered a music store-cum-bookshop asking for non-existent titles. On Aug. 8, at 6:01 p.m. in Berlin, about 40 people in the middle of a busy street took out their mobile phones and shouted, "yes, yes!" and then applauded.

These random acts of senseless, ad-hoc organization, however, had a serious origin. Protesters in Washington, D.C. and Seattle have used the instant on-and-off mob concept to get people to swarm political events. Most lately, they were in Seattle where President George W. Bush made a brief stop, and the police had to be called out to crush their small, impromptu protests.

If we were to go back to Seattle, circa 1999 and Washington, D.C., circa 2000, we could relive how protesters clashed with the police in both places. In the first, the protest turned into riot against globalization; in the second were similar protests against the IMF and World Bank. The protests were historic because they took place in the bailiwicks of capitalism, free trade and democracy (the holy trinity of the modern age). The protests were significant because of the means and manner with which technology was used by protesters.

Organizers used e-mail, which called forth small groups of protesters; they used the Internet to create websites and forums on the fly, first to bring people to Seattle or Washington, and then, with the aid of webcams and cell phones, to frustrate the efforts of the police to round up the protesters and contain them. In the Philippines, protest actions are governed by rules developed over the years by protesters who know how the police operate; this guarantees a certain amount of predictability on the part of protesters and police. Law enforcement authorities in these American cities, and later on, in Europe, were floored by the refusal of protesters to follow the traditional rules of protesting.

There were, to be sure, those who grandly marched arm-in-arm up avenues, waving banners and singing songs, manfully being tear-gassed and pummeled by water cannon. But there were, too, these pesky kids, in their teens to early 30s, technologically savvy and using technology to evade the police. They even dared to assault cops, on the trail of suspicious people, who suddenly found themselves isolated in alleys; they dared to run behind police lines and set free those who had been arrested; they smashed store windows but didn't stick around to be wrestled to the ground by the police—although in some cases, angry traditional protesters did the job for the cops.

These protesters, representing every possible anti-establishment ideology and belief, united in an unprecedented tactical effort that sent shock waves through what we can call the dark icons of the establishment: governments, bankers, free traders and communists. In other words, the hi-tech protesters in these cities were not the massed cadres of leftists we are used to seeing in our part of the world. If anything, the protesters in Seattle and Washington, the ones who really made an impact, weren't the usual banner-waving, rule-observing peacenik protesters, they were anarchists.

Just the other day, a veteran of the anti-Marcos protests of the 1980s recounted two incidents. The veteran said that when Marcos banned rallies in Makati, "we had to come up with a lot of creative ways to demonstrate." At lunchtime, Makati workers walked to Rustan's (at the time said to be partly owned by Imelda Marcos), and "entered the shop and just stayed there without buying anything, then walked back to their offices." The veteran recalled that perhaps a few thousand participated.

On another occasion, protesters went to the lobby of the Manila Peninsula, ate there and then, on cue, stood up and, with raised fists, sang "Bayan Ko." The pianist at the mezzanine cooperated by providing accompaniment to the singing. And, according to the veteran, "here's the bonus: Teodoro Valencia, known apologist for Marcos, happened to also be there at the time. After 'Bayan Ko,' the crowd faced him and started singing 'How much is that doggie in the window,' including the 'Arfl Arfl' Of course, he had to leave. I don't think he finished his meal."

What I think is that Filipinos must have invented the prototype for the flash mob. Others harnessed modern technology to facilitate it. It's time to reclaim the idea and put it to good use.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

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Embodiment of political crisis

LETTERS

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is the embodiment of the present political crisis just as Ferdinand Marcos was in the 1970s and 1980s, and Joseph Estrada in 2001.

But GMA, to her discredit, topped the unpopularity ratings of the other two. Whether she rules with an iron hand like Marcos or gambles the future of this country like Erap, her fall will come in due time.

Marcos had to impose martial law. GMA goes about it through dubious policies, directives, measures and ploys, like her CPR and gag order and proposed Charter change.

The Arroyo presidency, in fact, can also boast of a record-breaking economic crisis and overwhelming incidence of human rights violations.

How do we forget GMA's total war policy in Mindanao that killed, displaced and traumatized thousands of Moro families?

What do we gain in the ongoing military "hamletting" of Ata-Manobo families in Talaingod Davao del Norte?

How do we count all the activists, journalists and ordinary civilians killed under the Arroyo regime?

What is there to be proud of in being branded as the second most dangerous place in the world next to Iraq?

Let's look at the whole picture. One does not have to think hard to conclude that there is martial law in progress today. What we are seeing is a dictatorial regime hiding under the guise of national security, national stability and democracy (none of which still exists).

At least, the old dictator did not pretend. But GMA! I nearly vomit when I hear her talk of God. I wonder if it is the same God who told her to have the bishops, priests and nuns in the Oct. 21 protest in Manila hosed down.

I dare say that GMA is the worst President this country has ever had. And she, too, must fall!

—JONATHAN SO,
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A dying health care system

THE ALLIANCE OF HEALTH Workers would like to add to the broad framework provided by the editorial "Poor health." (PDI, 9/24/05)

Here is a summary of the unprecedented difficulty faced by our members as frontline health care providers:

- Rural health units and barangay health stations can no longer provide the primary health care services that they are supposed to provide (e.g., immunizations, health education, basic medications). Some midwives even dip into their meager salaries to buy urgently needed medicines for patients.
- Emergency and district hospitals have either closed down or have been further devolved to municipal governments which don't have enough funds to operate hospitals. Those that remain open lack supplies and medicines and are sorely understaffed; other hospitals charge even indigent patients to continue operating.
- Provincial, regional and special hospitals are overflowing with patients because rural health units, as well as emergency and district hospitals can't attend to their patients' needs for lack of facilities and capabilities. Many poor patients are not admitted at all, or choose to just go home because they can't endure the long lines and charge slips. Many of those admitted have no chance of getting well because they don't have money for antibiotics and other medicines needed.
- The Department of Health's main office and 16 centers for health and development (regional offices) that historically oversee the whole health care system have been transformed into mere monitoring and technical bodies. Vital DOH services/programs on such diseases as malaria, tuberculosis, schistosomiasis, and many more, have been abolished.

In sum, the whole health care system, especially the public health care system, has disintegrated after the devolution of health services in 1993. The system now depends more and more on politicians whose priorities are dictated by their self-serving interests.

We do not blame the growing number of health professionals leaving the country. But their departure as nurses has created a "vacuum" and made a devastating impact on our health care system. For example, the Tondo Medical Center lacks 15 new resident physicians now and it is without first-year resident physicians. This means that, if the trend continues in another three years, there will be no resident physicians left to take care of the 300 out-patients and 200 in-patients, the center services daily on the average.

In a district hospital in Iloilo, of the eight plantilla positions for physicians, four have been vacated by doctors who left the country as nurses; the remaining four are in their final residency, which means that after a year it will have no resident physicians.

With this information from our members in the field, we do not want to sound "alarmist," but these data should be investigated for proper government response.

—JOSSEL I. EBESATE, RN,
secretary general,
Alliance of Health Workers Inc.,
ahwphil@yahoo.com

Unworthy SSS employees

LAST SEPT. 20, I WENT TO THE MEMBERS Assistance Center at the main office of the Social Security System. The center opened around 7 a.m. The security guards were polite, I went directly to Window 38A. The person assigned there was very accommodating and I finished my business in five minutes. Then we proceeded to Windows 38, 39 and 40. It was in those windows that the problems started:

1. The persons assigned to those windows came in late: 8:05 a.m. at Window 40; 8:10 a.m. at Window 39; and 8:15 a.m at Window 38.
2. The SSS employee behind Window 40 started calling pensioners from our line at about 8:07 a.m.
3. The SSS employee behind Window 39 started working at 8:10 a.m., attending first to a pensioner who was with her when she came in. I told her there was a line of pensioners who came in earlier. But she uttered bad words, though the pensioner herself said that she was not there for any business with the SSS.
4. The SSS employee behind Window 38 started working at 8:15 a.m., giving priority to the papers of the three pensioners with her.
5. I was No. 4 in the line. When I got to Window 38, the person behind it angrily said it was not yet my turn to be entertained, because she was still attending to her "bring-along" pensioners.

The reason the SSS opens at 7 a.m. is to give time to SSS members and pensioners who have to report for work or transact other businesses for the day. The tardy SSS employees assigned at Window 38, 39 and 40 do not deserve their assignments. They are not helping the SSS meet its objective.

—AURORA B. NAPOLIS,
12 Ilang-Ilang St.,
Mapayapa Village 2, Quezon City

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Hagedorn challenges Batangas gov to duel

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY —Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, head of the government's anti-jueteng task force and this city's mayor, yesterday said he refused to be drawn into a word war with Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez after the latter described him as a "mad dog" for alleging that the illegal numbers game had resurfaced in Batangas.

HAGEDORN FILE PHOTO

"If by calling me names Governor Sanchez is issuing a form of a challenge in public to test my person and character, I gladly accept the challenge," Hagedorn said in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER. "I will gladly face him man to man in any kind of fight—*mano y mano* or any weapon of his choice, including a duel using the famous world-famous Beinte Nuwebe, the Batangas fan knife. No bodyguards, just the two of us in mortal combat," he added.

Sanchez on Friday called Hagedorn a *bang-aw*, a Batangueño slang for "mad dog," after a journalist asked the governor's reaction on the latter's alleged statement that the illegal numbers racket has resurfaced in Batangas and other parts of Luzon.

"*Bang-aw siya. Baka siya ang nagpapa-jueteng. Bakit niya alam na bumalik na ang jueteng?* (He's a mad dog. He could be behind the jueteng operations. How did he know that jueteng has resumed?)" Sanchez said.

"I'm the governor here, I should know better than him. Even my mayors don't know anything about the supposed resumption of jueteng," he added.

Hagedorn lamented Sanchez's verbal attack as he denied the allegation. "I have never issued any statement that jueteng has resurfaced in Batangas. This is a brazen lie, a nasty rumor that the gullible governor bit hook-line-and-sinker and irresponsibly responded to by maligning my person and office."

He said Sanchez could have called him up to check if he issued such a statement. "Any sober, reasonable political leader would have done so. Instead he resorted to verbal abuse and ridiculed me in public. This is deplorable, to say the least," Hagedorn said.

Hagedorn said the records would show that he continued to maintain that local officials and the Philippine National Police have stopped organized, syndicate-run jueteng in Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and the National Capital Region since the Anti Jueteng Task Force deadline on Sept. 15 was imposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Only sporadic reports of guerrilla-type jueteng operations, which are more of scams than organized illegal gambling rackets have been received by the Anti-Jueteng Task Force from Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz and those reported by the media, he said.

"I am amazed that a character like Sanchez whose origins come from the very bowels of the underworld to the provincial capitol in Batangas could be so naïve and gullible as to believe in rumors. For this lapse, I am so amused and feel so sorry for him," he said.

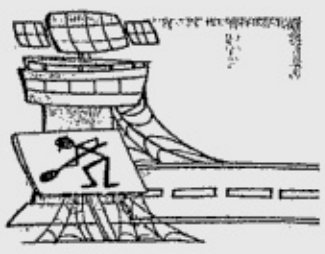
However, Hagedorn said calling me a "mad dog" is another thing. "No Hagedorn would simply allow this to go unchallenged. Not now. Not ever. I am averse to engaging Governor Sanchez in a word war. If he's spoiling for a fight, then let's fight. Stop talking. Name the time and place and form of combat, I will be there," Hagedorn said.

Prior to his election as mayor of this city, Hagedorn killed two policemen during the martial law years in self-defense and was acquitted by the courts for the slayings.

He said he was also the city's jueteng lord but gave up his illegal numbers game racket when he was elected in 1992.

ROUNDUP

Funds sought for airport



JOLO, Sulu—The provincial government of Sulu is asking P40 million from the national government to continue the long-stalled work on the Jolo airport runway. Gov. Benjamin Loong said he has also written the RP-US Joint Special Operations Task Force for assistance. Usman Asgari, officer-in-charge of the Air Transportation Office (ATO) here, lamented the long delay in the development of the airstrip. Work by the Army Engineering Battalion started in 1997. "But after a few months of work, it stopped due to the non-release of funds by the DOTC despite repeated follow-up," Asgari said.

Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau

800 cases of dengue fever

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Health in Eastern Visayas (DOH-8) reported that 800 persons had been inflicted with dengue fever in the region from January to September this year. The number, however, was lower than the 891 cases reported over the same period last year. Boyd Cerro, DOH-8 sentinel nurse said the cases included four children who died due to dengue fever. "The number of dengue fever cases in the region is not alarming in the sense that these were sporadic cases and not concentrated on a particular area," Cerro said. Leyte registered the highest number of cases with 608 followed by Southern Leyte (77), Samar (70), Eastern Samar (24), Biliran (20) and Northern Samar (1).

Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

5 nabbed for drugs

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Police arrested five suspected illegal drug peddlers in a two-day operation last week in Barangay Dau here. Mabalacat police chief Supt. Renato Soria said the suspects were arrested on Roxas and Daang Bakal Streets, which are frequented by illegal drug traders. Suspects Benigno Lingat, Edgar Flores, Rolly Cruz, Monico Alfaro and Allan Estabillo were charged with violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (Republic Act 9165).

Jun Mallg, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tricycle fare hike

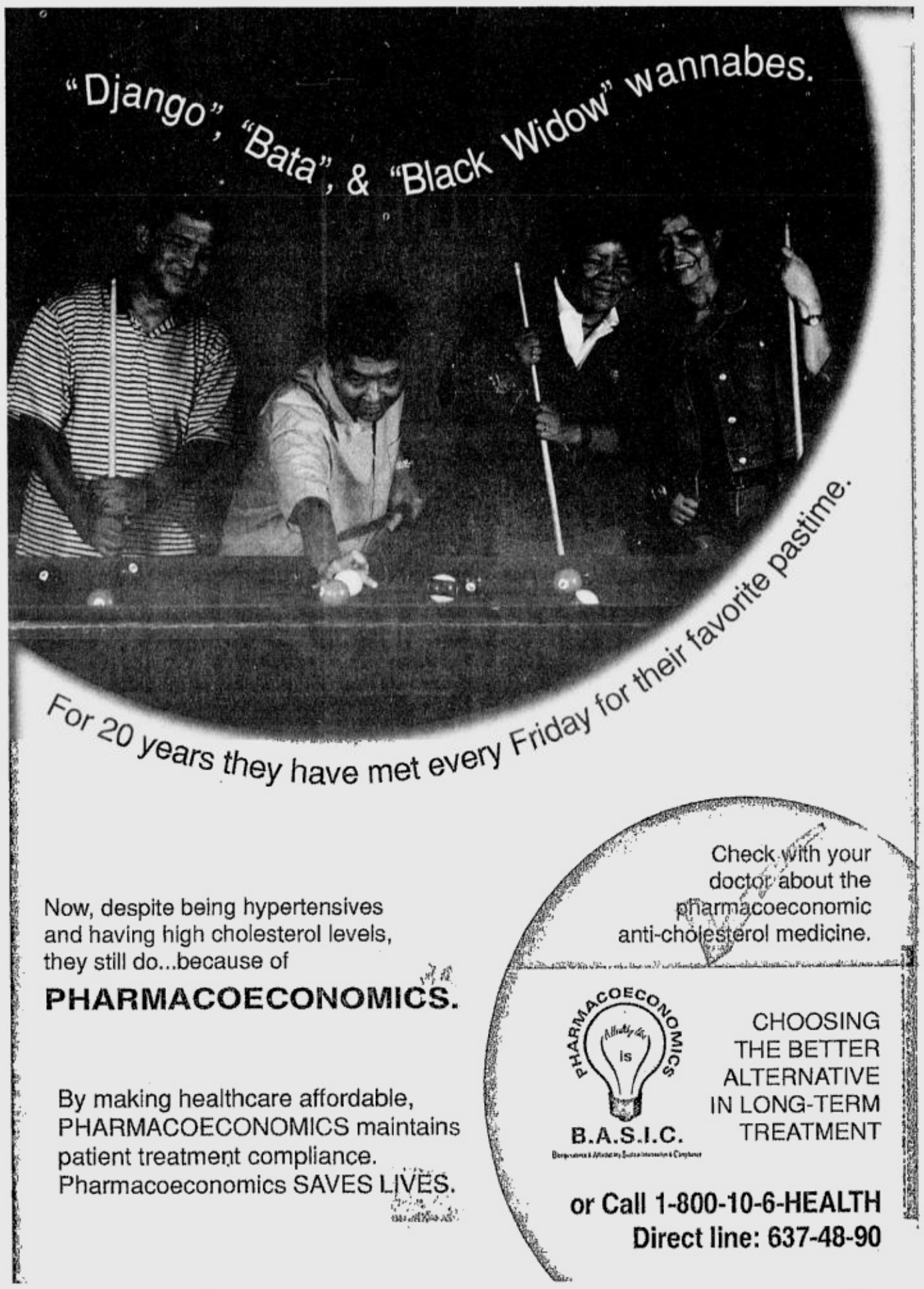
ROXAS CITY—Tricycle drivers here have started collecting a P2-increase in the regular fare of passengers after the city government approved their petition for a fare increase. The increase, which took effect Oct. 19, raised the regular fare to P6 for the first 5 kilometers and P4 for students and senior citizens. An additional P0.50 will be charged for every succeeding kilometer. About 3,500 passenger tricycle operate here, the city's major mode of transportation. Mayor Antonio del Rosario warned all tricycle drivers and operators to secure all the requirements before imposing the new fare. This meant that all passenger tricycles must display the matrix rate, have their respective body numbers, and secure their driver's license and identification card, he said.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

New jail for prisoners

DAVAO CITY—Some 180 inmates of the Sulu provincial jail were moved to the Provincial Rehabilitation Center (PRC), which was designed to accommodate drug dependents. Hadji Sali Abdulmajid, provincial jail warden, said congestion and other problems hounding the provincial jail prompted them to relocate the inmates to the PRC, which was not being used. At the new site, inmates have better breathing space with six cells that can accommodate 30 persons each. The PRC has also bigger grounds, where inmates can take their exercise and larger receiving areas for visiting relatives. Hadji Hector Buclao, a provincial board member, told the government-ran radio dxSM, that the land where the old provincial jail sits would be converted into a commercial complex.

Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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DOLE levies P8M worth of sugar to pay workers

HACIENDA LUISITA, TARLAC City—The Department of Labor and Employment has levied 8,000 bags of sugar worth P8 million as payment for the salaries of 373 Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu) workers on Friday.

Catlu president Ricardo Ramos said the bags of sugar had already been sold and the proceeds would be given to union members tomorrow. The amount covers 21 days of salary, 13th-month pay and other bonuses for 2004.

The DOLE decision came after Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) confirmed that it could not raise the money to pay about P8.8 million in back wages and benefits due its striking workers.

The withdrawal of sugar complied with the Aug. 11 writ of partial execution issued by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas. Its implementation was delayed after the CAT management asked for 30 days to raise the money.

The writ allowed the DOLE sheriff "to levy company property that would satisfy the amount due its workers if no payment was immediately forthcoming."

With the payment of the back wages, the Catlu workers and management met anew for final negotiations.

Ramos said the Catlu and CAT management would only resolve the reinstatement of union officials who were ordered terminated by the DOLE after the agency assumed jurisdiction over the labor conflict.

He said the CAT management agreed to reinstate 33 of the 35 union officers earlier dismissed. Two of the officers volunteered to resign to avoid disrupting the negotiations.

The remaining issue to be settled is the new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Instead of the usual two-year CBA, Ramos said the management was asking for a two-year extension to allow it to improve its finances. *Jo Martinez-Clemente with reports from Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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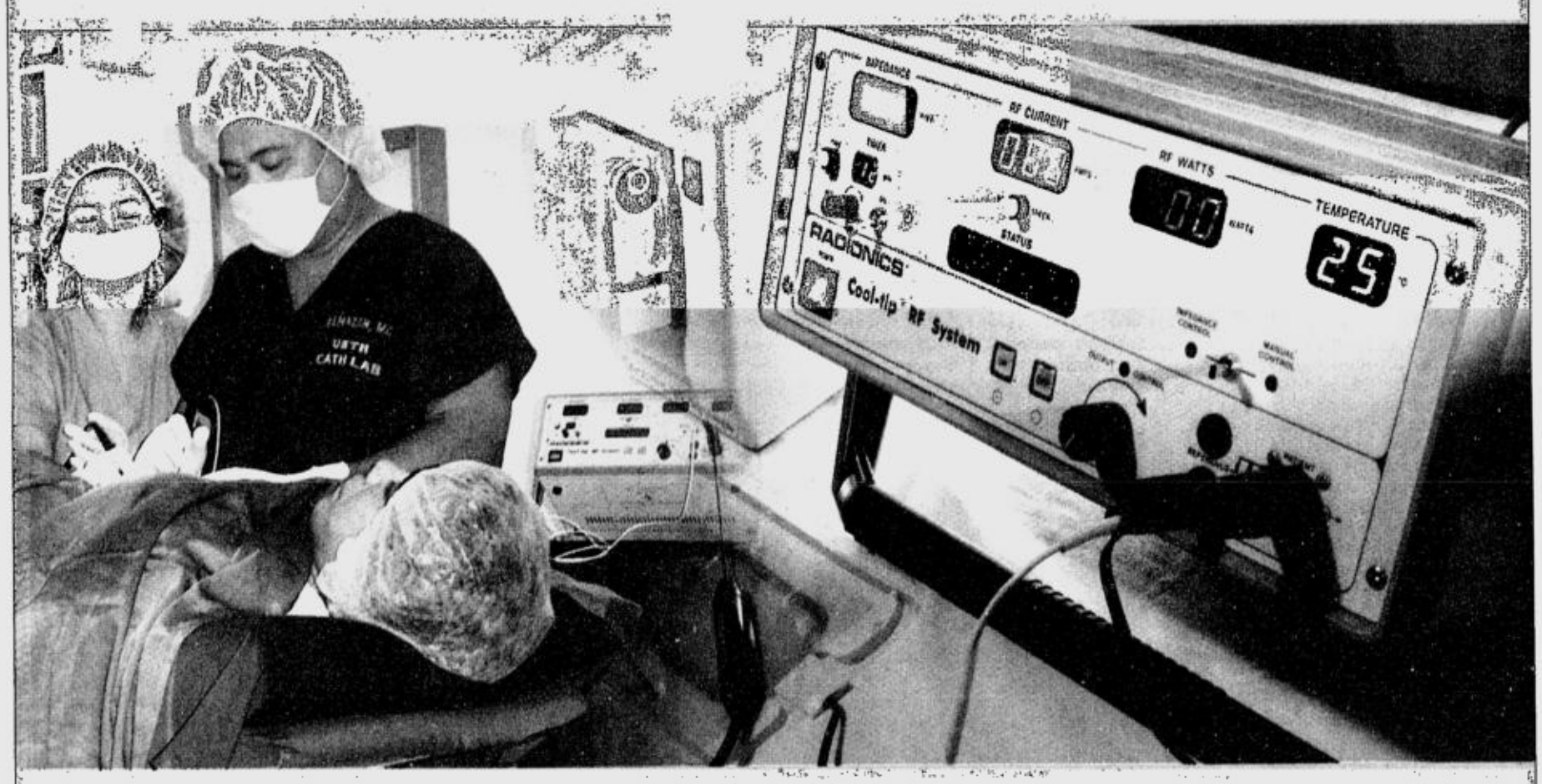

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Death of cop baffles probers

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police probers are puzzled over the death of the chief of the investigation division of the Batangas City police who was found dead with a bullet wound in the head inside his vehicle early Saturday morning.

City police chief Supt. Nilo Anzo said they had yet to make an official statement on the mysterious death of Insp. Felizardo Panaligan, 47.

Panaligan's body was discovered by a tricycle driver inside the victim's jeep along a road in Barangay Gulod in Batangas City at around 6 a.m.

"We are still awaiting the results of forensic and crime laboratory examinations [on Panaligan's body]," Anzo said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said Panaligan could have died from a single bullet wound in the right temple.

Police found the victim's 9-mm service pistol on the right side of his lap, he said. They also recovered an empty bullet shell inside the vehicle.

Asked if Panaligan might have committed suicide, Anzo said: "We still do not have any basis to say that."

Anzo described Panaligan as a responsible police officer and chief investigator.

He said investigators were not discounting the possibility that Panaligan's death had something to do with his job as chief investigator of the city police.

In Talisay City in Batangas, two men were killed while another was seriously wounded in a gunfight between drunken men on Thursday night.

Provincial police director Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro identified the fatalities as Pablito Mendoza, 60, and Cristino Caringal, 44, both of Barangay Caloocan, Talisay. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LGUs to get back ₱17-B withheld IRA

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—SOME P17.5 BILLION in accumulated amounts withheld by the national government since 1999 from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) will be returned soon to local government units (LGUs).

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a visit here on Oct. 14, informed him of the decision to give to the LGUs portions of their IRAs that had been withheld.

Arnaiz, a close ally of the President, the League of Governors and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) were collating documents to support the release of the amount.

Monetization

During her visit here to grace the opening of the Oriental Negros Buglasan Festival, the President said she would want the LGUs' withheld share released through "monetization" as soon as documentation was completed, Arnaiz said.

By monetization, Arnaiz explained, either the Land Bank of the Philippines or the Development Bank of the Philippines would extend loans to the LGUs equivalent to their share of the amount withheld, with the national government paying for the loan.

"We are having a series of meetings among members of the league and Ulap with some key Cabinet officials from the finance and local government departments for the release of the money," Arnaiz said.

He said the governors' league and the Ulap had been requesting Malacañang since early this year to release the money in view of a Supreme Court ruling in 2004 that withholding any portion of the IRA was illegal and unconstitutional.

Since 1999, P5 billion of the IRA have been withheld and placed under the so-called Local Government Service Equalization Fund (LGSEF).

The LGSEF was a brainchild of the Estrada administration and mandated by Executive Order No. 48, issued by the ousted president on Dec. 7, 1998.

Originally, coined as the "Program for Devolution and Adjustment and Equalization," the LGSEP was designed "to facilitate the process of enhancing the capacities of local government units in the discharge of the functions and services devolved to them by the national government."

Under the General Appropriation Acts of 1999, 2000 and 2001, P5 billion from the IRA was set aside for each year "for the funding requirements of projects and activities arising from the full and efficient implementation of devolved functions and services of local government units."

The Arroyo administration continued implementing the LGSEF in the reenacted budget of 2002.

But the Supreme Court ruled that "local government units shall have a just share, as determined by law, in the national taxes which shall be automatically released to them."

The High Tribunal also warned that withholding the IRA violates the mandate of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, particularly Section 286 which states that "the share of each local government unit shall be released, without need of any further action, directly to the provincial, city, municipal or barangay treasurer ... and which shall not be subject to any lien or holdback that may be imposed by the national government for whatever purpose."

Self-reliant town builds classrooms

ALABEL, SARANGANI—WITH FISCAL PROBlems hounding the government, local officials, the community and the private sector realized they would have to pool their resources to build more classrooms for the only science high school in Central Mindanao.

Southern Philippine Power Corp. (SPPC), the Conrado Alcantara Foundation, Inc. (CAFI), the Alabel municipal government, and the Parents Teachers Community Association (PTCA) contributed funds to raise the amount.

On Thursday, the new four-classroom building of the Alabel National Science High School (ANSHS), worth about P1.1 million, was inaugurated in a simple ceremony attended by those who helped build it and officials from the Department of Education.

Sarangani schools division superintendent Deborah Adrales hailed the project as a proof that the community could do something without necessarily relying on the national government for help.

Adrales credited Gov. Miguel Dominguez for encouraging and harnessing strong linkages among the local leaders, the community and the private sector in the province.

Dominguez said the private sector has been helping the province in development work.

Since 1996, private groups, such as the CAFI and SPPC, have been helping the municipal government, as part of their "corporate social responsibilities to the communities," he said.

Aside from helping in the construction of the building, SPPC said it would donate audiovisual aids and provide training and scholarships for teachers in 14 schools here and in Malapatan. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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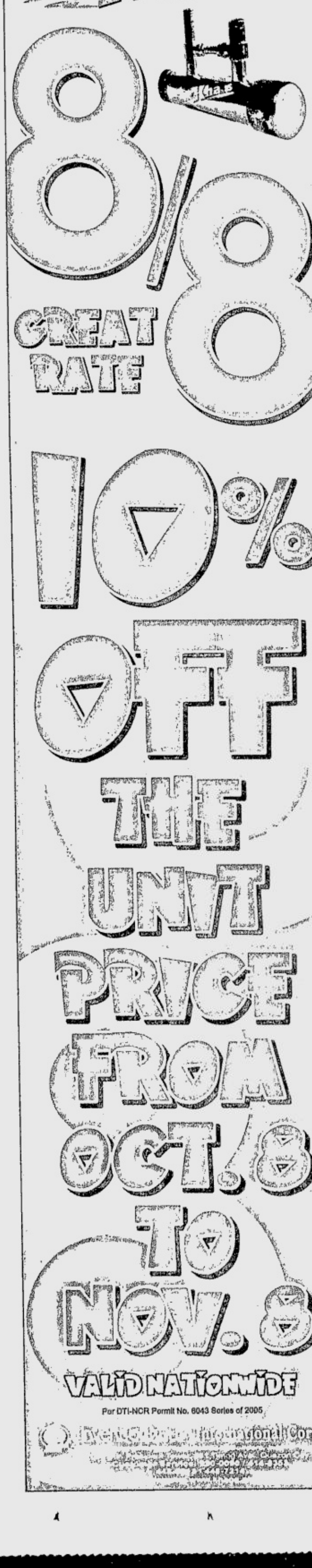

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Erap elated over admission of mistake by Cory, Bro. Eddie

From page A1

Party-list Rep. Etta Rosales said Aquino's and Villanueva's statements showed the increasing political isolation of Ms Arroyo.

"They [her critics] no longer trust that she can change," the Akbayan representative said in a phone interview.

A dead end

"That's the impact. It's a dead end. What is happening is the rapid political isolation and moral disintegration of the Arroyo leadership, so they don't believe that she has the capacity to reconcile with the opposition and work for genuine reforms," said Rosales.

Rosales, chair of the House committee on human rights, said the administration appeared to be heading "toward an implosion."

"People are getting out of the administration and this is broadening the ranks of the opposition, although the opposition is not united as you want want it to be," she said.

Divided GMA forces

This has resulted in "a division of ranks within GMA forces," Rosales added.

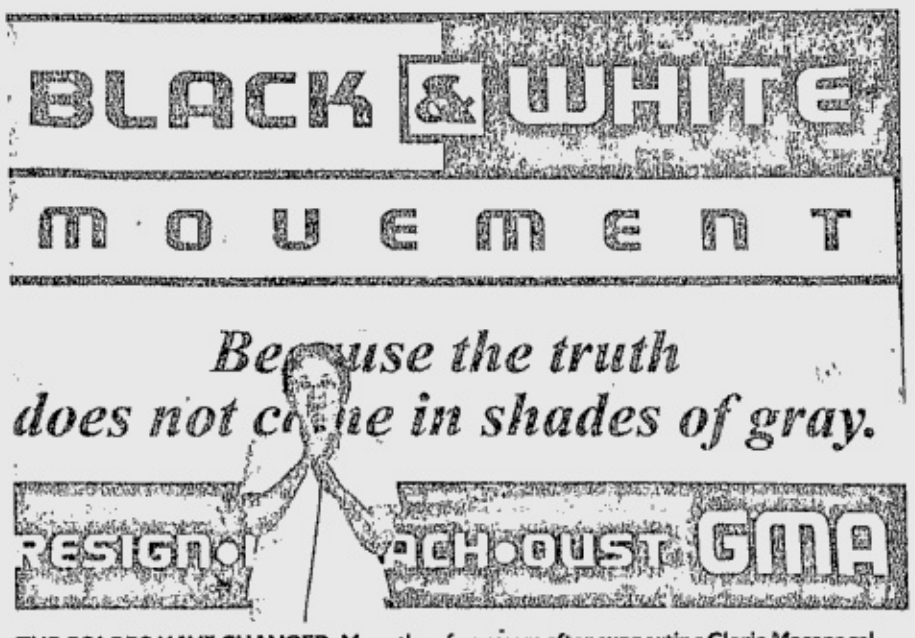
Rosales cited what she said was dissension within the ranks of the majority coalition in the House of Representatives.

"People can look at it in a different way. But you know Cory. Once she takes a position, she sticks to it. The fact that she ... has regretted supporting GMA [only shows] that GMA has reached a point where she is incapable of reform."

"When Cory says she regrets it, she still wants reconciliation but not through [Ms Arroyo]."

No regrets

Reacting to Aquino's statement, House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said: "For our future, we continue to fight, but regrets are for the past. We must make sure we do what is right now so we don't regret what we did today when tomorrow comes."



THE COLORS HAVE CHANGED. More than four years after supporting Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's rise to power, former President Corazon Aquino admitted to supporters she had made a mistake. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cayetano said he did not regret taking part in the Edsa II rallies, but "I regret not doing more to make sure GMA did not become the monster she said she was fighting."

He added: "Like Marcos, GMA did not become a tyrant overnight. What we should all regret is not Edsa I and II but the failed governance and missed opportunities. We expected much from GMA and expected her to raise the level of professionalism and good governance in the country.

Fairness urged

"Instead, her administration is worse than the Estrada administration."

Administration lawmakers called on Aquino to be fair in judging Ms Arroyo.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said even Aquino "experienced losing some of her supporters and followers who became disenchanted with her administration and position on the current political crisis."

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, spokesperson of Estrada's Pwersa ng Masa party for Metro Manila, said Aquino's and Villanueva's statements were "a way of saying that Edsa II was a mistake and the rule of law was not followed."

Tiangco said Estrada's supporters had always maintained that the removal of the former President was "unconstitutional."

"As a consequence of their action, they must make amends and correct the injustice they had committed against Estrada and the Filipino people," he said. *With reports from Edson Tandoc Jr. and Nancy C. Carvajal*

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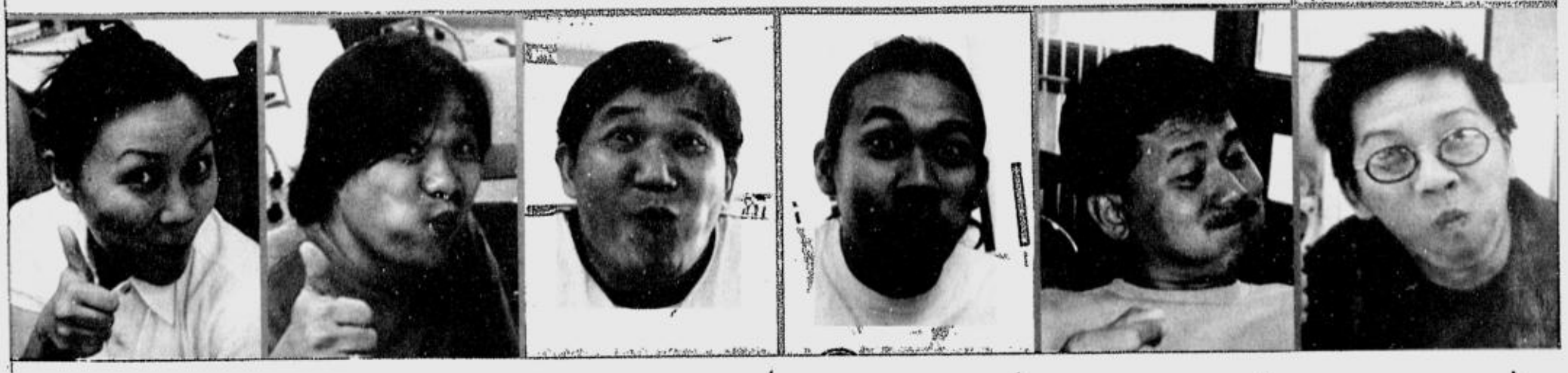

Food program serves up fresh ...

From page A1

and other vitamin-enriched foods.

The program, an offshoot of the Church-led 25-centavo fund drive "Pondo ng Pinoy," aims to save children in Metro Manila from malnutrition.

It is called Hapag-Asa, a name that combines the Filipino words *hapag* (dining table) and *pag-asa* (hope).

"These malnourished children are the future of our country. They are our hope, our future leaders," Pondo ng Pinoy coordinator and Caritas Manila director Fr. Anton Pascual said yesterday. "We have to save them."

Wasting children

Hapag-Asa aims to feed about 50,000 children of Metro Manila below 8 years old. The target is to feed 5,000 children in each of the 10 dioceses under the Pondo ng Pinoy.

Since it was launched in July, Hapag-Asa has served about 3,000 children. It aims to complete its mission by June 2006.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto are the chairs of Hapag-Asa.

A study has shown that the metropolis has some 200,000 "wasting" children—or children who do not eat for long periods. The program hopes to reach at least 25 percent of them.

Under the feeding program, children beneficiaries, or those recommended by each parish, are served a high-protein meal enriched with vitamins and minerals once a day, five days a week, for six months.

The meal could be in the form of hot *champorado* or *arroz caldo* or other recipes.

The cost is P7.50 per meal. Feeding the target 50,000 children for six months will cost P45 million.

Hapag-Asa, through the Pondo ng Pinoy, has accumulated about P8 million in funds so far, Pascual said.

The program also offers guidance on family planning, values formation and nutrition education to parents, most of whom—because of poverty—have been feeding their children noodles, which lack the nutrients needed for proper development.

The Pondo ng Pinoy, or PnP, is the Church's answer to the worsening poverty in the country, Pascual said during a pastoral assembly of the archdiocese in Mandaluyong City on Friday.

The PnP was launched in June 2004 as a community foundation supported by 25-centavo donations to parishes in the 13 dioceses covered by the ecclesiastical province of Manila.

Scholarships, too

In just 16 months, the fund drive has raised P52 million, Pascual said.

"This is probably the fastest organization to raise an amount that big by just collecting coins," he added.

Aside from supporting Hapag-Asa, the PnP offers microfinance programs and scholarships to poor communities in Metro Manila and in provinces as far away as Palawan.

Pascual said poverty was the root cause of the growing confusion and social disorder affecting the country, eroding hope among the people.

More powerful than truth?

He challenged political leaders to uphold a value more powerful than the "truth" which they claim to seek in the current political turmoil.

"That is love," Pascual said.

"If they love our country, they would set aside differences and just concentrate on improving our condition," he said.

He said that instead of advancing political and personal interests, "we should all focus our attention on the No. 1 social problem in our country, which is poverty."

Born of the biblical story of the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, the PnP was inspired by Pondong Batangan, which Rosales had set up when he was archbishop in Lipa City, Batangas. The project collected P12 million in three years.

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Pink ribbon links survivors

From page A1

their composure slipped and some of their defenses crumbled when they saw that their loved ones seemed to be suffering more than they were.

In the end, both women—separated by culture but fighting a common battle—realized that they must overcome breast cancer not only for themselves but also for those they loved and lived for.

Survivors

Today, Wang and Feliciano have recovered from the malignant growths in their chests and proudly call themselves survivors. The two women are linked by the Global Connection Ribbon, a campaign against breast cancer launched by Avon Cosmetics Inc. in some 30 countries.

In Makati City yesterday, Wang turned over the Global Connection Ribbon to Feliciano, who will represent the Philippines in New York, where the tour first started. The ribbon links all breast cancer survivors worldwide, as it is passed on from one survivor to the next, according to organizers.

In mid-2002, Wang was preparing for a work-related trip to Japan as a manager of a trading firm based in Beijing when a routine medical exam discovered a tumor in her breast.

She shrugged it off, and asked the doctor what needed to be done, and how long it would take. Later she told her husband and her 28-year-old son that she would have it checked when she came back from her trip.

Homemade dish

But her family would not have it, she told the INQUIRER over dinner on Saturday. "They insisted that I should have the cyst removed before I left," Wang said.

Over the next several days, the former chemistry teacher was in the hospital for the treatment of her Stage 1 cancer, she said. "My husband's hair turned white in just two months," she said.

One day, she saw another patient who shared the hospital room eating a homemade dish that looked very delicious. When her husband learned she had a craving for the dish, he spent eight hours scouring Beijing to look for it in stores and restaurants.

"He never found one, so he asked a restaurant to make the same dish just for me and ended up paying more," Wang said.

Although her attitude over her condition bordered on being noncommittal, she said it was her family that worried more for her sake.

Husband and son cry

It was during her operation that she saw her husband, a stoic character, cry for the first time in their decades-long marriage, she said. It was also the first time she saw her adult son shed tears, she said.

The effect of her illness on her family was such that she resolved to conquer it once and for all. "I (felt I didn't) have a right to die," she said.

Many Chinese women do not wish to tell their families they have cancer and choose to suffer in silence, Wang said.

She could never understand why. "It's not the women's fault if they get cancer," she said.

She said she was now campaigning to educate Chinese women about breast cancer to prevent the disease. "I should use my experience to educate them not only for their own sake but also for their families."

For her part, Feliciano said her family was instrumental in helping her cope with breast cancer.

Chemotherapy

In mid-2000, she felt a lump in her left breast while in the shower. When she went to the hospital, the doctor told her it was a malignant cyst. She had to undergo chemotherapy.

Her initial reaction was to joke about it, she said. "I told my husband, *'Sosyal, di ba pangmayaman lang ang* cancer (Isn't cancer only for the rich)?"

Later, a nurse told her that other patients who had seen her reaction were impressed by how she had handled the news.

But when Feliciano, who was then working for a package delivery company, saw that her family was hurting, she began to pray that her ordeal would soon end.

She never cried during the initial operation but chemotherapy was a different story altogether, she said.

"The pain is indescribable. It's like you're down with the flu multiplied several times. I was so weak. I kept vomiting. The interval for each session was three weeks. Each time I was beginning to recover, the next session would begin," she said.

As she lay bedridden in their house between sessions, her father never came to visit because, as she learned later, he could not bear to see her in such a state.

Fashion statement

She said her husband was with her all the time and stayed with her through the difficult phases of her Stage 2 cancer. Friends and relatives said they felt so helpless and could only look away every time she vomited.

When she saw that clumps of her long hair were falling off, she had her head shaved completely, Feliciano said. Her ever-supportive family told her going bald was a hip fashion statement, she said.

Mother to a 24-year-old daughter and grandmother to a year-old girl, Feliciano is now working for a real estate marketing company. In her spare time, she is a volunteer at the Philippine General Hospital, where she counsels breast cancer victims.

She does not initially tell the patients that she is a cancer survivor, but when they learn about it, "they look at me, as though they couldn't believe it," she said.

Sometimes, when she is in church and sees a woman with a bandana around her head, Feliciano knows instinctively that she is undergoing chemotherapy. She often approaches the cancer patient, and imparts words of support and advice, she said.

It gives patients hope that, like her, they, too, can fight breast cancer and defeat it, she said.

With fellow survivors, Feliciano led cancer warriors on a march around Makati's business district early yesterday morning for the fund-raiser, the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

"Right now, one Filipina dies of breast cancer every two hours ... Breast cancer does not choose anyone. If we can encourage women to do breast self-examination, then probably there would be early detection and eventually, one less person would die of breast cancer," said Ina Quioge, Avon Cosmetics general manager.

Science has yet to find a cure for breast cancer.

The 5,000-strong contingent of cancer awareness advocates gathered young and middle-aged men and women, and students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. From shirts and pants to hats and handkerchiefs, each wore something pink—the cancer crusade's official color.

From 6:30 a.m. to about 7:30 a.m., they marched down Makati Avenue, Ayala Avenue, through the intersecting Gil Puyat Avenue, then back to Makati Avenue's Gabriela Silang Carpark where the walk had started.

Pink insignia

Participants paid a P50 registration fee, for which they got a "walk certificate" and a wristband bearing the Avon breast cancer campaign's pink insignia.

An annual global project of the company's Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer campaign, yesterday's fun walk was the third in the country this year for Avon Cosmetics Inc., having brought the campaign to the cities of Cebu and Davao.

The company hoped to translate the turnout in all three cities into donations for hospitals, including Cebu's Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, the Davao Medical Center and the Philippine General Hospital Breast Care Center in Manila.

Quioge said the company would match the P500,000 to P1 million the three fun walks had raised, and would donate it to the hospitals for purchase of medical equipment for breast cancer detection, including mammography machines.

Thankful

"I'm very thankful that there's this kind of activity for women because it helps raise awareness for women to take care of themselves ... It's a big thing for women to know about the risk of having cancer," Feliciano said.

In Zamboanga City, at least 3,000 women, men and children held a march-rally dubbed the "Pink October Walk" on Friday in an effort to boost cancer awareness.

"It is definitely a protest march, but not a political one. We are protesting against a killer that is cancer," city health officer Dr. Rodel Agbulos said.

At least 324 people have died of cancer in the city this year alone. Although it is only second in the list of five top killer diseases in the city, officials said people should be aware of cancer all the time.

"We need to intensify the awareness campaign," Teresita de la Cruz, spokesperson of the health office, said.

Vice Mayor Maria Isabel Climaco said residents should rally behind the government's campaign against all forms of cancer because "nationwide, the No. 1 killer among women is breast cancer." *With a report from Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Blind spaniel joins fun walk

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SHE WOULD MISS STEPS, BUMP INTO strangers, and fall on the sidewalks, but no obstacle could discourage this blind canine from walking for a cause.

Out on a leash for the first time in months, Mara, a 7-year-old cocker spaniel, was among thousands who joined yesterday's fun walk to raise awareness on breast cancer.

"We stayed here in the back [of the march] because she's getting disoriented for all the noise, all the people. This is the first time for her to walk outside since she became blind," said Mara's mistress, 35-year-old Marivic Araneta.

Blond-furred Mara, a champion show dog who had won several canine "pageants," lost her sight in July to glaucoma, a progressive ailment that irreversibly snatched away her vision.

Despite the dog's condition, Araneta, a marketing officer of GMA Network Inc., decided to take Mara on the fun walk as a show of support for a friend and colleague, Genevieve Torrejos, who is currently battling breast cancer.

"She needs all the support she can get because it's good to know that you have friends with you when you are sick," Araneta said.

Araneta came prepared for the 3-km walk with a full survival kit for the canine: a bottle full of water with a plastic cup for Mara's drinking convenience, a bag of dog food and, of course, eye drops.

But as the pooch easily got tired and was still adjusting to her blindness, Araneta took her pet on a shortcut.

Instead of going all the way around Gil Puyat Avenue from Ayala Avenue, Araneta gave Mara a water break at the Ninoy Aquino Monument on the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, a few blocks closer to the endpoint. From there, they walked at a leisurely pace through Paseo de Roxas to meet the parade at the intersection of Makati Avenue, the walk's homestretch.

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Big rally vs MMDA today

By Clarissa S. Batino

ORGANIZERS OF A RALLY BY transport groups said they were expecting more than 7,000 drivers and operators of public utility vehicles to join today's demonstration before the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority offices in Guadalupe, Makati.

"Based on the commitments we have, about 7,400 drivers, conductors and operators will join the rally," Vigor Mendoza, lawyer and spokesperson of the groups said.

Of the head count, more than 2,500 are from bus groups most affected by MMDA's Metropolitan Traffic Ticketing and the No Contact Apprehension systems.

These two schemes, which aim to simplify the apprehension process, are being studied by the courts. Pending a decision, the MMDA has continued implementing them.

While there is no transport strike, Mendoza said less public utility vehicles would be plying their routes today, especially along Edsa.

Closure of Rodriguez dump set

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY.

The Rodriguez, Rizal, government said it would suspend operations at the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility on Wednesday over delays on its request for a 30 percent increase for the use of the dump.

"The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority had not yet decided on our request. We are pushing through with the closure," Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said yesterday.

Cuerpo and the dump's private operator want the current P600 per ton tipping fee to be raised to P800, saying that other controlled dumps are getting more.

The mayor said they were just asking for a "fair treatment."

The Rodriguez dump takes in garbage from 10 cities and municipalities in the metropolis.

Documents provided by Cuerpo showed that the private contractor of the controlled dump in Quezon City charges P1,000 per ton of garbage.

Of the P600 per ton fee for the use of the Rodriguez facility, the private contractor of the Montalban facility gets P450 while the local government gets P150.

In his letters to the MMDA, Cuerpo also complained of the consistent delay in payments.

"The municipality finds it extremely difficult to meet our obligations if we will always experience (delayed payments)," he said in a letter to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando on Oct. 17.

"Your failure to address our immediate concerns will force us to temporarily close the (facility) the soonest possible time," Cuerpo added.

The MMDA allegedly still owes the Rodriguez, government P183 million.

"We can reconsider our decision (to close the facility) if the MMDA will help us sustain our operations," Cuerpo said in an earlier interview.

In a statement, the local government warned that the closure of the facility could bring another garbage crisis in the metropolis.

The Payatas and Tanza controlled dumps are servicing only a few areas in Metro Manila.

But these are set to close by the end of the year in compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Mystery donor funds MRT tickets

EVEN WHILE THE CONTROVERSY of who funded a lobby contract in the US rages, another mystery donation is set to be made to the Arroyo government.

The mystery donor has offered to give 500,000 Metro Rail Transit 3 tickets stamped with the photo of President Macapagal-Arroyo, a transport official said.

This is on top of the 800,000 new passes that the railway agency earlier commissioned, according to Transport Undersecretary Guiling Momondiong.

A lack of tickets has been hounding MRT 3 for the past few months.

Mamondiong said 500,000 tickets will be arriving in the coming weeks, courtesy of a donor he said he did not know.

MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said he also did not know who was donating the tickets except that it was a "multinational group."

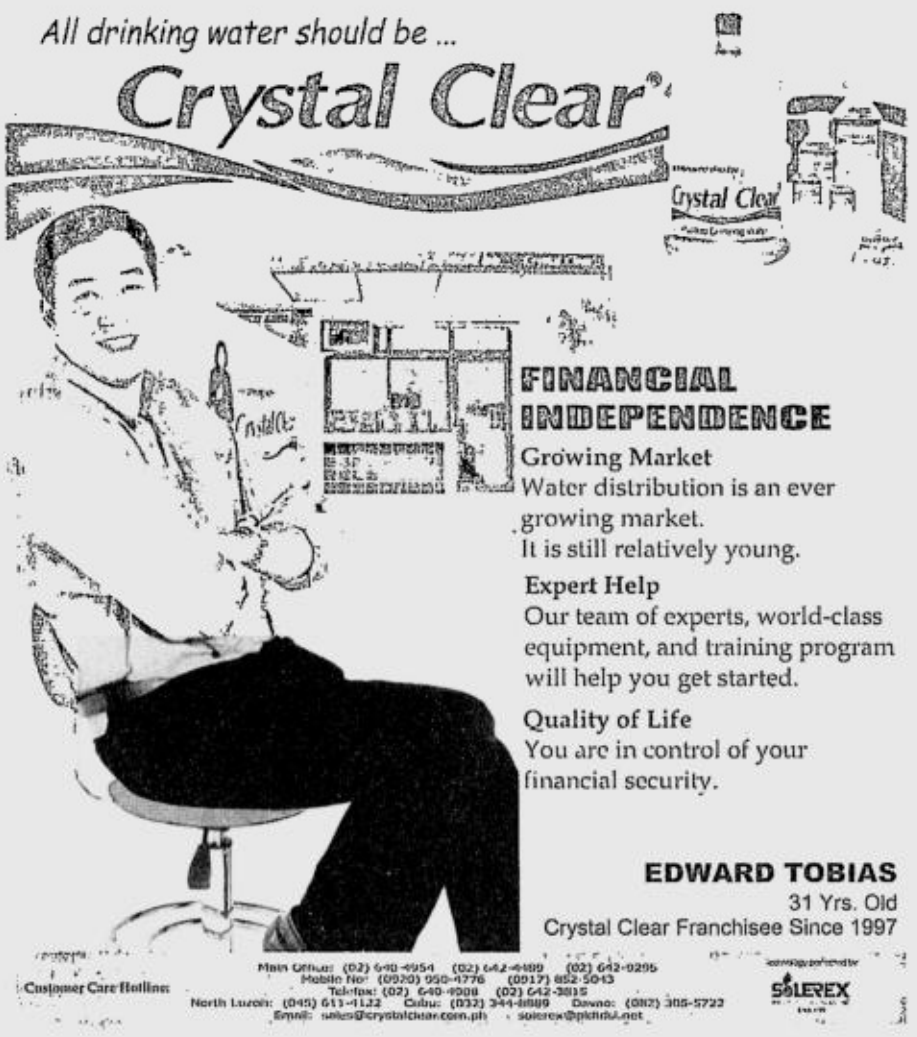
The current order for 800,000 tickets is costing the government P10 million. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Call center offers 2,000 jobs

SOME 2,000 JOBS ARE EXPECTED TO BE created with the inauguration today of the call center offices of WinSource Solutions in Mandaluyong City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the inauguration at the Robinson's Cybergate Tower I on Pioneer Street at 9 a.m.

The call center business is being pushed by government to create jobs locally.



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

No stopping Daniels as Air21 wins

By June Navarro

A LITTLE BIT OVERWEIGHT, SHAWN DANIELS put his excess poundage to good use last night.

Daniels relentlessly used his 6-foot-5, 260-lb frame to ram through the Sta. Lucia Realty frontline and powered Air21 to a 110-95 come-from-behind victory in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Not even Dennis Espino, last season's Defensive Player of the Year, could handle Daniels as the Express recovered from a double-digit deficit in the third quarter to earn their second win in five games.

"So many people would not appreciate his (Daniels) value, but honestly, he's the one needed by the team to fill that hole in the middle," said Air21 head coach Bo Perasol.

In the second game, Red Bull hammered out a tough 76-74 decision over over San Miguel, stretching the Beermen's winless start to four straight games.

The Barako, on the other hand, notched a third win in five outings.

Quemont Greer led the Barako with 23 points and 12 rebounds while Enrico Villanueva added 15 points and 12 boards.

Rico Hill led the Beermen with 19 points and 12 rebounds in what could be his last game in the league. San Miguel has lined up four possible replacements but has withheld their names. The Beermen are expected to announce the replacement before Saturday's game against Air21 in Roxas City.

Daniels, who also toyed with Marlou Aquino and Leon White in the shaded lane, finished with 30 points, 14 of them when the Express rallied from a 13-point deficit to take an 84-81 edge entering the final period. He also had 10 assists.

Rookie Niño Canaleta punctuated his career-high 10 points with a tomahawk dunk over the 6-9 Aquino that highlighted a fourth-quarter scoring spree by the Express.

Air21 worked behind a full-court press during the opening minutes of the fourth quarter with Canaleta, Ronald Tubid and Patrick Fran smothering Sta. Lucia's backcourt.

Perasol particularly cited Canaleta's work on Chester Tolomia, who

NO STOPPING/ A27

PBA GAMES
WEDNESDAY
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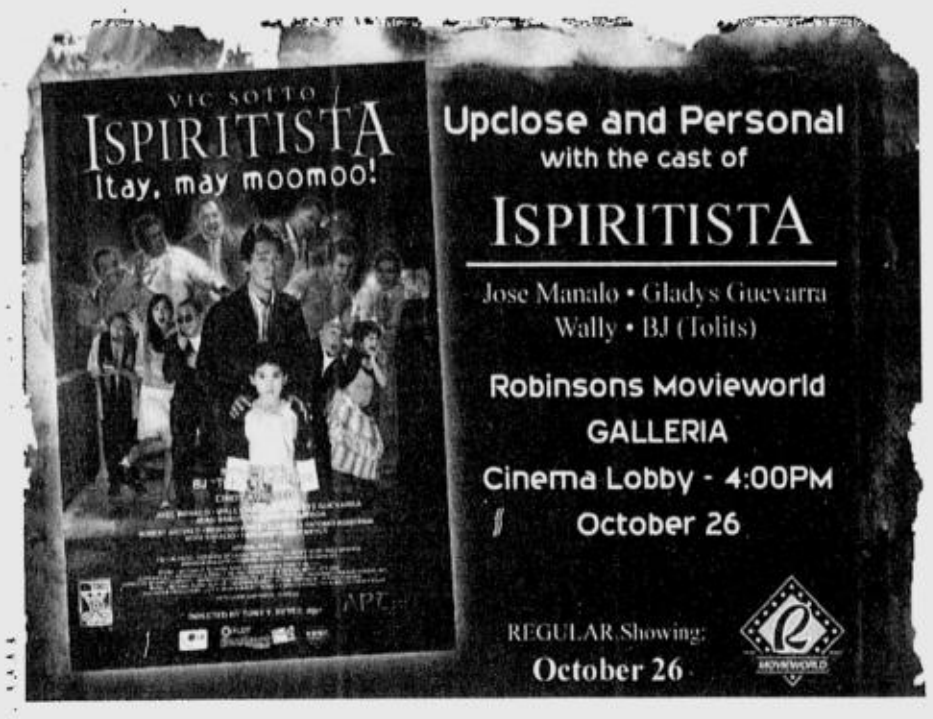

Empire King reigns

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

EMPIRE KING SHOWED SPEED ADvantage the hardy stuff he's made of yesterday.

Displaying the heart and poise of a champion, Empire King summoned all his strength down the stretch to win the 5th Santa Lucia Cup by a nose at the Santa Ana Park.

John Cordero masterminded the narrow victory, worth P300,000, of last year's Presidential Gold Cup titlist.

Speed Advantage broke ahead of Empire King and played catch-me-if-you-can under Fernando Raquel Jr. Nearing the home turn, Cordero pushed his mount to the lead but Speed Advantage roared back to even gain a one-length margin at mid-stretch.

But Empire King, the progeny of Perfect Halo-Carta Nueve, and Cordero, the fourth jockey tapped to ride the millionaire chestnut colt, did not crumble. Under intense punishment, Empire King found a second wind and managed to stick his chocolate nose ahead of Speed Advantage, the Cojuangco Cup winner.

It was the 23rd victory in 38 runs so far for the Sandy Javier-bred Empire King. Winning time was 1 minute 40 seconds flat (24.5-234-23-23.5)

Pine Needles and Sound Offer finished third and fourth, respectively.

Earlier, Moab came from behind to rule the Orchard Estates Sprint under Jesse Guce and Last Hazm topped the Pinewoods Estates race under Antonio Alcasid Jr.

RP OPEN

Orcollo joins Bustamante in 9-ball final

ORCOLLO

DENNIS ORCOLLO flashed immaculate form in crushing Ronnie Alcano, 11-8, last night to forge a title duel with the favored Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the Philippine 9-Ball Open at the Robinsons Galleria Trade Hall.

The cue artist from Surigao, who ousted Ramil Gallego, 9-7, in the quarterfinals, took the lead halfway through the race-to-11 semifinal encounter with Alcano and closed it out when his rival left the one-ball open in the 19th rack.

Had Alcano won the rack, Orcollo still had a chance to wrap things up as he would be breaking in the next rack under the alternate-break format.

Bustamante had earlier stopped the giant-killing run of Mario Tolentino to gain a shot at the championship of this P1.35 million event co-organized by Puyat Sports and Solar Sports.

Tolentino earlier ousted Jeffrey 'Jeff Bata" de Luna, 9-4, in the quarterfinals.

A virtual unknown before the event, Tolentino rocked the tournament by eliminating last year's champion Antonio Gabica. He also took the measure of Efren "Bata" Reyes, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam.

The Bustamante-Orcollo title duel, a race-to-15 affair, was still going on at press time.

The winner gets P500,000 and the runner-up P250,000. Alcano and Tolentino settled for P100,000 each as losing semifinalists.

Earlier, Orcollo was lucky to slip past Gallego, who came into their quarterfinal match fresh from ousting newly crowned US Open champion and former world pool titlist Alex Pagulayan.

With the score tied at 7-all, Gallego looked poised to run out the 15th frame after holing in a difficult spin shot on the one-ball. But an uncharacteristic miss by Gallego on a simple cut-shot at the blue-two turned the table to Orcollo, who gamely cleaned up the mess to reach the hill.

Vilog tops last NAGT series leg at Alabang

GEORGE VILOG CELEBRATED HIS 29TH BIRTHday in advance by winning the seventh and last leg of the National Age Group Triathlon yesterday at the plush Ayala Alabang, even as youthful Kim Mangrobang nailed the overall women's title.

Banking on his vast experience, Vilog, who turns 29 today, dominated the three events with an aggregate time of 1:15:04.

A three time RP champion, Vilog swam the 750-meter course in 15.46 minutes, timed 58.54 in the 20k bike race and ran the 5k distance in 24.2.

Raul Cuevas, brand manager of PowerBar, shared honors by ruling the 30-34 age bracket in 1:22.48, beating Rene Tablante and John Vince Rufino, who placed second and third, respectively in 1:28:13 and 1:2:15.

Mangrobang, a 14-year-old second year high school student at Dominican College in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, negotiated the 750m swim in 12.32, the 20k bike in 51:37 and the 5k run in 30.51.

Patricia Baybayan checked in second in 1:43:57, while Anina Gatmaitan wound up third in 1:43:58.

Brian Caintic was a far second to Vilog in 1:26:00, while Anthony Balaguer came in third in 1:30:14.

Joeffred Angeles topped the 16-19 class

YILOG/ A31

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Lurking dangers for GMA, POC

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE WAS NO storm warning.

No path of possible destruction.

No volcano threatening to erupt, either.

No ash spewing, no hint of lava rising.

In short, the Thais are not coming to spoil the Philippines' Southeast Asian Games party.

At least, they did not state they would.

No threat, no clear description of intent.

* * *

But listen, please.

If top Filipino sports officials had failed to see through Thailand's vow to send its Class A boxing team to the Manila SEA Games next month, something's wrong with their alarm instruments.

We did not even have to read between the lines.

Thailand, as clearly stated, is coming on strong to defend its SEA Games boxing crown.

So, if their finest amateur boxers are showing up here next month, can their best athletes in other disciplines be far behind?

* * *

It's like this. A group of Thai sports officials, headed by their No. 2 in the Thailand Olympic Committee, came over for a look-see of the venues for the SEA Games, set to fire off here Nov. 27.

After giving the Manila preparations the thumbs-up, this Thai group also made a very generous pronouncement.

They said RP should not find it hard to finally bag the Games overall title, which the country had missed by two gold medals in 1991.

But listen again: The Thais also did not state they would be serving the overall title to the Philippines on a silver platter.

* * *

OK, the visitors from Bangkok had explained why they could not send their best players.

Thailand was also preparing for an international indoor meet which they would be hosting close to the SEA Games.

This announcement should not however make our sports bigwigs feel cozy.

In the first place, why did Thailand make that turnaround? Why did it suddenly decide to field in its best boxers, including their latest Olympic gold medalist and a reigning World Cup titlist?

Well, the Thais may not be actually trying to mislead our sports bosses.

But their latest move means only one thing: Given the chance, they would go for the overall title.

* * *

Sorry, folks. But, based on local preparations, there's a greater chance of this opening for a spectacular surge being available to the Thais.

Mike Keon, national training director, was perfectly right when he stated that our athletes have failed to truly exploit the availability of local venues.

Most of these playing fields, where Filipino campaigners should've honed their skills ahead of Asian neighbors, were in fact still in the process of completion at press time.

Still, there's no need to panic.

Thailand's latest move cannot count as a veiled threat.

No storm warning, there.

However, Filipino sports officials should at least take note of the lurking dangers.

Let's pray they don't play it blind like the power-mad top resident of Malacañang, who has refused to recognize the grains of wrath, the storm of anger and hunger, the thunder of broken, bleeding peasant toes, now set to explode like a volcano right on her doorstep.

Bondad big in HK

HONG KONG—FRANCES BONDAD exacted sweet revenge on Thai bets Porani Chutichai and Pornanong Phatlum yesterday, ruling the 2005 Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Asian Golf Monthly International Amateur Open yesterday by six strokes with a closing 1-under-par 72 at the Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Club course here.

Bondad, who started the final round five shots ahead of local bet Demi Mak, pulled away from the pack with a sizzling 5-under 30 in the front nine of the par-73 layout.

She finished the tourney at 217 after earlier rounds of 72 and 73.

That was six shots ahead of Chutichai, who outsteadied Bondad in the final round of the Hong Kong Amateur Ladies Open two weeks ago.

The RP men's squad failed to match Bondad's feat as Michael Bibat settled for third place with a 222 after a 74, Jay Bayron wound up fifth with a 76 for 228 and Tonton Asistio hobbled home with an 89 for a 242.

It was an inspiring win for the 17-year-old Bondad, the former RP Ladies Open winner who, with US-based and reigning RP Ladies champion Jayvie Agojo, will lead the Philippines' bid in next month's Southeast Asian Games.

Chutichai fired a 71 and took runner-up honors with a 223, while Phatlum settled for third (81-232).

Bondad's stint here, along with Mia Piccio and Crystal Superal and the men's squad, is sponsored by golf patron Enrique Razon Jr. Piccio finished eighth (84-253) and Superal ninth (85-254).

No stopping Daniels as Air 21 wins

From page A25

was held to two points in the fourth quarter after unloading 22 in the first three periods.

The scores:

First Game

AIR21 110—Daniels 30, R. De Ocampo 17, Ritualo 14, Ferriols 11, Canaleta 10, Tubid 9, David 7, Gonzales 5, Arboleda 5, Y. De Ocampo 2, Dacla 0, Se 0, Fran 0.

STA. LUCIA 95—Espino 25, Tolomia 24, Aquino 14, White 13, Omolon 6, Catil 5, Cabagnot 5, Calimag 3, Sta. Maria 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 27-29, 52-60, 84-81, 110-95

Second Game

RED BULL 76—Greer 23, Villanueva 15, Najorda 10, Valenzuela 7, Pennisi 6, Fonacier 5, Tugade 5, Bugia 2, Cruz 2, Ybañez 1, Robinson 0, Bagulo 0.

SAN MIGUEL 74—Hill 19, Seigle 14, Hontiveros 13, Belasco 9, Ildefonso 6, Calagulo 5, Racela 4, Adriano 2, Peña 2 Hubalde 0, Villoria 0.

Quarters: 18-22, 36-39, 55-59, 76-74

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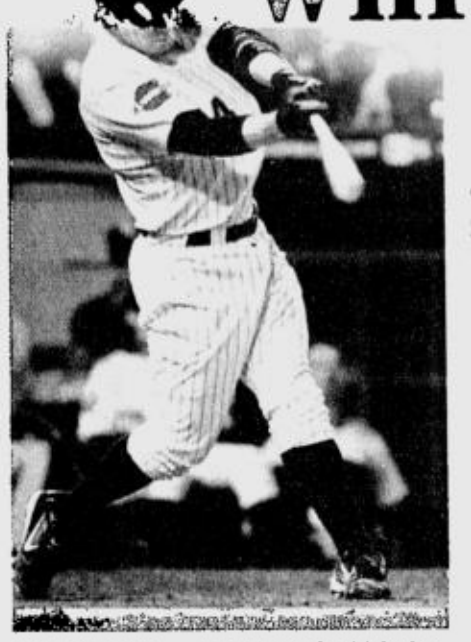
White Sox ground Rocket, Astros

Chicago bullpen bares teeth in Game 1 of World Series



JOE CREDE hits a solo homer in the 4th inning.

CHICAGO—YES, THE CHICAGO WHITE Sox do indeed have a bullpen, and they have the lead in the World Series, too.

Neal Cotts and Bobby Jenks got out of an eighth-inning jam, Joe Crede hit a go-ahead homer and saved two runs with a pair of diving stops Saturday and the White Sox beat the Houston Astros, 5-3, in Chicago's first World Series game since 1959.

"Winning the game the way we did, it's amazing, truly amazing," Chicago center fielder Aaron Rowand said. "It just gives you chills, goose bumps."

On a night when 43-year-old Roger Clemens hoped to become the oldest pitcher to win a World Series game, the Rocket hobbled off after just two innings, done in by the hamstring injury that has hampered him since early September.

Winner Jose Contreras allowed the Astros three runs in seven-plus innings in their first World Series game, and tied a Series record by hitting three batters.

Chicago pitched four straight complete games in finishing off the Angels in the American League championship series, a feat not achieved in a postseason series since 1956. But when Willy Taveras hit a leadoff double off Contreras in the eighth with Houston trailing 4-3, manager Ozzie Guillen took him out after 81 pitches.

"They can't leave me out there. I'll lose the game," Contreras said through a translator. "We have guys out there that are fresher."

Cotts, a left-hander whose seven pitches and two outs was Chicago's only relief work against the Angels, came in and allowed a sharp single to left by Lance Berkman, a ball hit so hard that Taveras had to hold at third.

Cotts then struck out Morgan Ensberg and Mike Lamb. Then Guillen went to his bullpen again, raising both arms high and wide to signal for the burly rookie closer Bobby Jenks to face Jeff Bagwell.

"I don't want to embarrass the kid, but I want the big boy," Guillen said.

Throwing fastballs that reached 100 mph (160 kph), the right-hander who began the year in the minor leagues struck out Jeff Bagwell on a 2-2 pitch.

"He chases fastballs up above the zone," Jenks said.

Jenks raised his right hand, pumping a fist as he came off the mound.

"I'm disappointed, I'm not crushed," Bagwell said. "There's a long way to go."

Scott Podsednik added an RBI triple in the eighth against Russ Springer to boost the margin, and Jenks retired the side in order in the ninth, striking out two and keeping the bullpen unscored upon in 10 postseason innings.

"Bagwell's a great hitter, he's a Hall of Famer, but Jenks is throwing 100 mph; you got to go with that," Chicago catcher AJ Pierzynski said,

Crede had broken a 3-3 tie in the fourth with a solo homer on an 0-2 pitch off Clemens' replacement, 26-year-old rookie Wandy Rodriguez. As the ball went just over the glove of a leaping Taveras in left-center, Crede strolled around the bases.

"You got the nerves and butterflies going in and you know what, the game starts and you calm yourself down and realize you got a job to do," Crede said. *AP*

Crede plays hero

CHICAGO—THE CHICAGO White Sox decision to stick by infielder Joe Crede through the ups and downs of his Major League Baseball career has paid big dividends in the 2005 post season.

Crede hammered a solo homer over the left-field fence in the fourth inning and made two dynamic defensive plays at third base as Chicago took game one of the World Series Saturday.

Crede, one of the few products of Chicago's farm system still with the team, made a diving backhand catch in the sixth inning to hold the Houston runner at third base and prevent a potential tying score with one out.

Crede took another potential run away from the Astros with a carbon copy defensive play in the seventh.

Crede made a diving stab at third before throwing to first to get Craig Biggio out and end the inning. *AFP*

Beem leads Funai

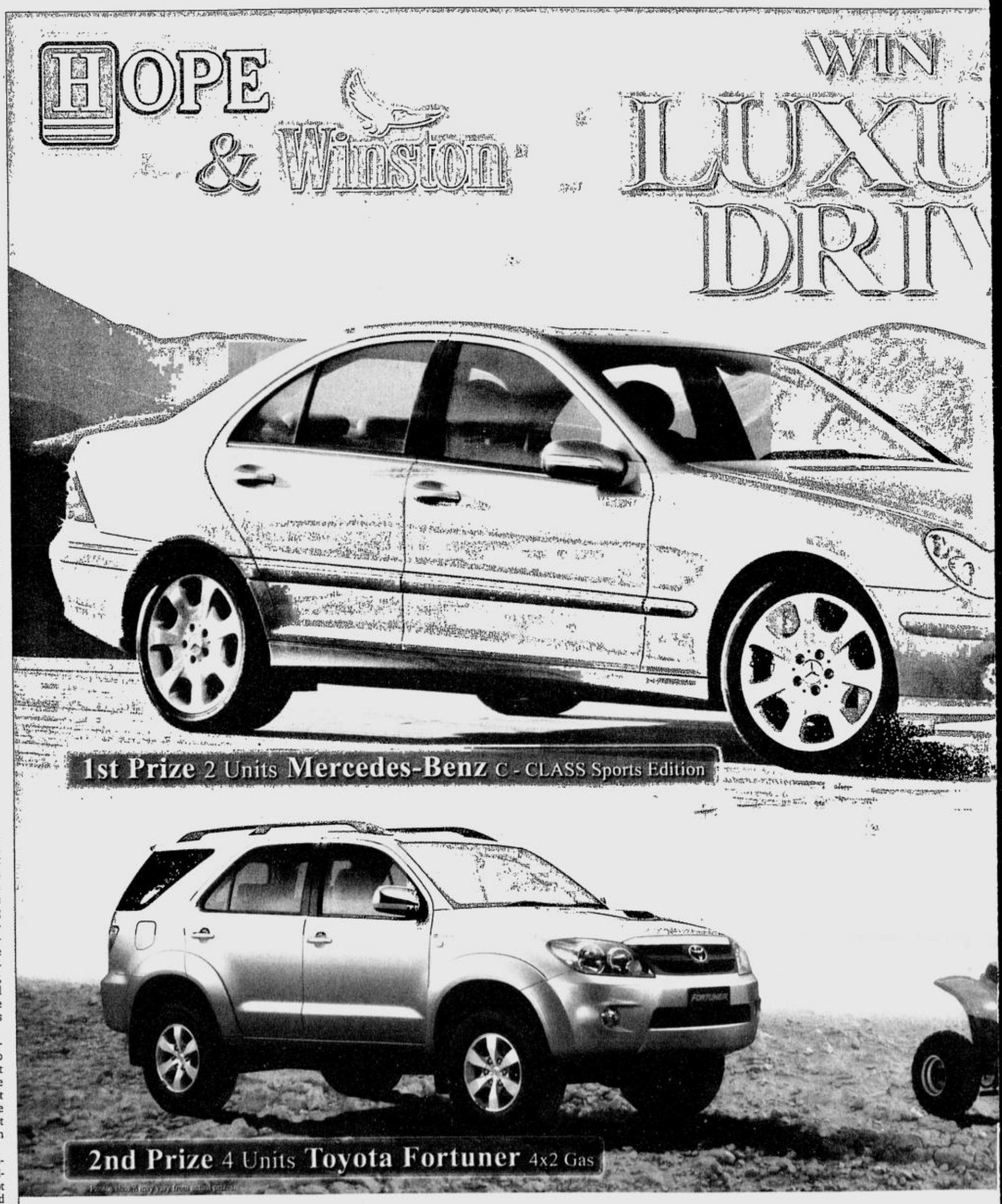
LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Rich Beem rolled in a 25-foot putt for his fourth straight birdie at No. 17 and finished with a 9-under 63, leaving him atop the leaderboard after Saturday's incomplete third round of the Funai Classic at Disney, which continued without two of the US PGA Tour's biggest names.

Tiger Woods, needing two birdies to avoid missing the cut for the second time this year, instead went bogey-par to fall three shots short of the cut and join Vijay Singh on the sidelines.

Beem was at 19-under 197. Mark Calcavecchia was a shot behind after a 65 and an 18-under 198.

He was joined by Mark Wilson, who shot a career-best 63. Also at 18 under with at least two holes remaining were Tim Clark, Tom Pernice Jr. and Geoff Ogilvy.

Beem had 15-foot birdies around a 30-footer on the third hole, then went dormant until a 30 on the back nine. *AP*



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Nadal makes Madrid final

MADRID, SPAIN— Top-seeded Rafael Nadal reached the Madrid Masters final for the first time Saturday, edging Robby Ginepri, 7-5, 7-6 (1). In Sunday's final, Nadal will play eighth-seeded Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 winner over Argentina's David Nalbandian. The 19-year-old Spaniard, playing in the Madrid capital for the third time, was pressed hard by Ginepri in both sets before a sellout crowd of 9,000 at Rockodromo Madrid Arena. In the second set, Nadal went ahead 4-3 with a service break after the American fell behind 0-40. But Ginepri broke back in the next game when Nadal missed a rare forehand passing shot. Both players held serve the rest of the way, forcing the tiebreaker. Nadal got an early mini break and never trailed, clinching it 6-1 when Ginepri's forehand sailed long. *AP*

Sunday special set

THE BOSS DANNY 4-stag derby, the first big event to be held on a Sunday at the Las Piñas Coliseum, kicks off Oct. 30, a day after its original schedule. The event was supposed to be held Oct. 31 but a majority of the participants ran into scheduling conflicts. As of yesterday, 40 big-time cockers and breeders have confirmed their participation. Meanwhile, the entry of Cerry Ramos and that of Boy de Roca and lawyer Ching Morales topped the Blue Ridge 4-stag derby last Saturday. Las Piñas Coliseum is also gearing up for the Super Big Event 5-stag derby on Nov. 5. For other inquiries, call 8731040 and 8743910.

90 matches at Big Dome

NINETY MATCHES highlight the elimination round of Bakbakan National 9-stag derby today at the Araneta Coliseum. Action starts at 11 a.m. Cockers and breeders who will score at least two points advance to the semifinal rounds on Nov. 15, 17, 21, 22 and 24. The annual event is held under the auspices of National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders. Competing today are members of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association. The entries of Bobby Doromal and Pol Estrellado posted three wins each in the first round held Thursday night. For other information, please contact 9113101 and 9112928 or 0920-5851940.

Stagfighter race resumes

THE RACE FOR THE PCAP Stagfighter of the Year trophy heats up as 2005 World Slasher Cup champion Boy Marzo and Sonny Lagon are expected to make their move on the frontrunners today at Makati Coliseum. Today's 5-stag derby, the eight leg of nine PCAP stagfests, will feature 72 fights beginning at 5 p.m. Lagon, the breeder behind Gerry Ramos' top-rated Blue Blade Joke 3 entry, is currently in third spot with 21.5 points and threatens to overtake leaders Henry Villarica (23) and Pepito Ngo, Jet Fernando and the Jingco Brothers (22.5). Marzo is in fourth spot with 21 points. For details, call 8963545 and 8956475.

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8.) Major prize winners will be notified by registered mail and/or by phone calls on when and where to claim their prize.
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10.) Prizes not claimed sixty (60) days after the publication of the winners will be forfeited.
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3 LORD OF WAR
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 MASAHISTA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00

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8 DOOM
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10 INTO THE BLUE
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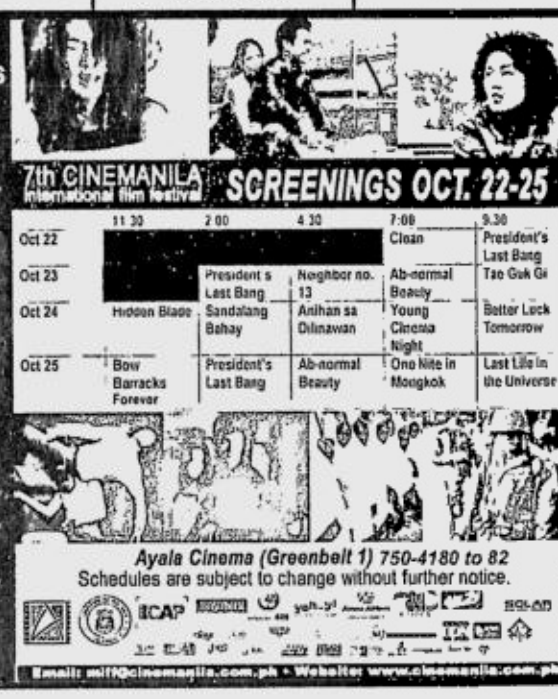

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Basketball isn't the only thing in SEAG

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE IS NO question that basketball is the Filipino's No. 1 sport, but sports officials should be reminded that basketball is not the only thing in the coming Southeast Asian Games. In hosting this year's 23rd SEA Games, we should also focus on the other 38-plus sports in our quest for the overall championship.

"Our SEA Games victory must not rest solely in basketball," said Go Teng Kok during a recent dialogue with members of the Athletes and Coaches Association of the Philippines. "You must also think of your respective sports and your collective efforts in the quest for the SEAG overall crown."

Admitting he once committed the mistake of saying "a SEA Games without the Philippine basketball team competing is a big shame," Go, a founding father of the Acap, stressed he was admonished by the POC president (Jose Cojuangco) and told not to ignore the contributions of the other athletes in other sports, including Go's track and field and chess.

"When I realized my mistake, I apologized to Mr. Cojuangco," said Go. But he also castigated Acap president Arturo "Bai" Cristobal, the former national women's coach, for coming out with an open letter supposedly asking Cojuangco to reinstate the BAP as the national association for basketball. Many coaches and athletes likewise assailed Cristobal for allegedly using the name of the association without their knowledge.

"He (Cristobal) acted on his own and did not consult the association before he came out with the open letter," lamented Acap secretary Haydee Ong. Cristobal is a staunch ally of BAP secretary general Graham Lim, who is reportedly behind the Acap appeal.

Though Cojuangco and POC chair Robert Aventajado are doing everything to find a way to enable the country to take part in the basketball event, defending the men's cage title should not be the only thing in the minds of Filipinos.

On this score, many are calling on BAP president Joey Lina to make the supreme sacrifice by accepting the decision of the 33 members of the POC general assembly to expel the BAP from the local Olympic body.

The BAP was expelled for very valid reasons. The POC assembly was offended by the arrogance of BAP officials and for their lack of direction and show of disrespect to the POC. After the BAP had neglected its duty to promote and develop basketball in recent years, the BAP should not complain when the assembly voted for its ouster. It cannot dictate on the presidents of the 33 national sports associations who voted for its ouster.

The ball is now in Lina's hands. A former senator and local government secretary, Lina can win the nation's respect and admiration by informing International Basketball Federation (Fiba) secretary general Patrick Baumann that the BAP is no longer recognized by the POC as the national association for basketball in the Philippines. His name could very well be remembered by this generation and the generations to come by making this patriotic gesture instead of saying that the POC can save the basketball event in the SEA Games by temporarily reinstating the disenfranchised BAP.

There are rules in sports that must be followed to ensure fairness, harmony and sportsmanship. Decisions of officials duly authorized to execute these rules (in this case, the POC assembly) must also be respected. Otherwise, there will be confusion, as what is happening now.

* * *

Birthday greetings to Raffy Casyao, an executive of Photokina Marketing Corp. who is my co-celebrant today.

Luzon 2nd as Taiwan cycling tour kicks off

BERNARD LUZON OVERCAME tremendous odds Saturday to place a strong second at the start of the Giant Le Tour de Hualien in Taiwan.

One of only two RP-Pagcor Casino riders in the two-day event, Luzon took runnerup honors behind Ireland's Paul Griffin of the Giant Asia Racing Team in the 160 km grind.

But Luzon, who finished third in the 2004 Tour Pilipinas, acknowledged the support of his fellow Novo Ecijano Albert Primero, who finished 12th.

Griffin scored 12 points in the stage, two ahead of Luzon and another two points in front of David Tonks of Hong Kong.

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Vilog . . .

From page A26

in 1:27:24; Joash Serrano ruled the 15 and below class in 1:21:56, and Raymark Dabu won the 20-24 category in 1:28:49.

Juan Apolinario Reyes ruled the 35-39 division in 1:23:28; Abet Alon Alon the 40-44 class (1:21:39); and Alvin Alindogan topped the 45-49 event (1:28:34).

The event was held in cooperation with Ayala Alabang Village Association and sponsored by Speedo, Gatorade, PowerBar, Nike, David's Salon, Stronghold Insurance and Asian Center for Insulation Phils.

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MURAKAMI

SPORTS

La Salle bucks last-ditch rally by Ateneo golfers

BAGUIO CITY—NATIONAL PLAYER ARTEMIO Murakami delivered in devastating fashion one of the four points his team needed yesterday as La Salle shrugged off a late rally by archrival Ateneo in the final round to win the Ateneo-La Salle Match Play 2005 at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

Murakami, primed to play for the country's SEA Games team unless lady luck smiles on him in his bid to join the Japan Tour, won his fifth straight assignment—a 5-and-4 trashing of Jun Jun Plana—to help La Salle to the trophy.

With an imposing 17.5-6.5 advantage going into the singles matches, La Salle bucked the Ateneo rally by winning five matches and halving one to complete a 23-19 victory and avenge its loss last year at Sherwood Hills.

Victories by Miko Alejandro, JR Tanpinco, Cebu's Justin Limjap and Raffy Garcia and a draw salvaged by Jenz Tecson boosted La Salle in the tournament presented by Smart Communications.

Ateneo won eight of the first 11 matches, but it was all over when jungolfer Marcel Puyat was held to a draw by Tecson and female entry Katrina Gonzalez took a 5-and-4 loss to Limjap.

Even the successive victories of Jeric Hechanova, Marty Ilagan, Venjo Reyes and Joel Bernaldez proved immaterial for Ateneo.

Garcia put a fitting climax to the victory by La Salle—captained by Freddie Mendoza with Henry Atayde, Lito Tanjuatco and Jay Gervasio as the other officials—when he beat Benjie Sarmiento in the final match.

Tournament host Bob Sobrepeña said he was pleased with the conduct of the games.

"After witnessing such high level of play from all players, perhaps Camp John Hay can be the permanent home of the duel," he said.

Peng Perez de Tagle, president of Club Leisure Management Corp. which organized the event for the Ateneo Golf Foundation and the De La Salle Alumni Association, said the event is bound to grow in the coming years.

Other sponsors of the event patterned after the Ryder Cup were PLDT, Nokia, Camp John Hay Golf Club, CJH Dev't Co., CJH Manor, Golforce, Gainers Marketing, Pisanti, Kork, Le Chef, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Club Leisure Management Corp.

MY Games Nat'l begins

STRESSING THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT sports and physical fitness play in society, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza declared open yesterday the First Manila Youth Games (MY Games) National at the San Andres Sports and Civic Center.

The finest 17-and-under athletes of the land along with top local officials, city hall luminaries, and representatives from all 897 barangays, six congressional districts, and 130 public and private schools all over Manila attended the colorful, festive rites opening the first multi-event competition organized by a local government unit.

Atienza, who was the keynote speaker, underscored the city government's effort in putting premium on the youth through the MY Games National which is presented by Globe Telecoms and backed by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., San Miguel Corp., Milo, Red Bull, Philippine Airlines, Super Ferry, Land Bank, Unilever, Speedo, Isuzu Manila, IntrASports, and Concept Movers.

"In line with our Buhayin ang Maynila program, we have relentlessly pursued a thrust for the youth in the firm belief that sports and physical fitness play an important role in society," said the mayor, who was accompanied by Buhayin ang Maynila Task Force chief Kim Atienza.

The weeklong multi-event competition is organized by the Manila Sports Council (Masco) headed by Arnold "Ali" Atienza.

Hostilities start today in little baseball and softball at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines baseball field, while football gets going tomorrow at the Rizal Park.

Ozamiz guns for NBC title today

OZAMIZ CITY—OZAMIZ COTTA SHRINE CAGERS gun for the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball title against Cavite today at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's cagers hope to sweep the best-of-three series in the 6 p.m. contest, knowing how tough the Far Eastern Insurance-backed squad of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and supporter Gov. Ireneo Maliksi could get should they extend the finals to the limit.

"The pressure is there and it's up to my players to respond," said Ozamiz coach Alberto Calvo.

Ozamiz drew first blood in the match between the Southern and Northern conference champions by taking Game 1, 65-63, at the Washington gym in Makati City.

"I'm confident that we can come back, Cavite coach Segundo "Bong" de la Cruz said.

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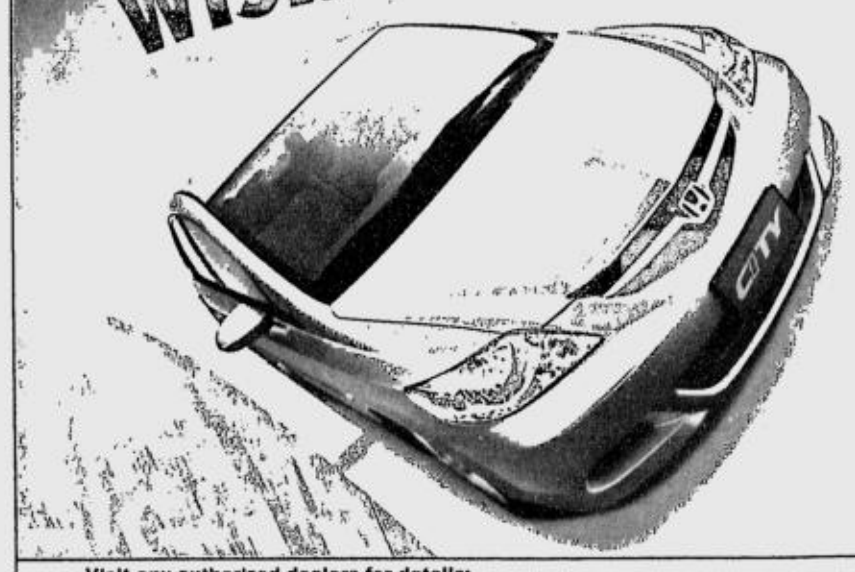

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THE OFFICIAL VITAMIN OF THE 23rd SEA GAMES

Cool dad Vic plays bad guy for a change

In his new movie, he's a fake seer whose son sees dead people

By Nini Valera

VIC SOTTO IS UNFAZED BY REPORTS that a group of *ispirititistas* (seers) have asked the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board last week to stop the showing of his latest movie "Ispiritista: Itay, May Moomoo!" on Oct. 26.

"The movie (a co-production of Regal Entertainment and APT Films) is a wholesome horror-comedy that revolves around the relationship of a father and his son," Vic told INQUIRER Entertainment.

But he admitted that this was the first time that he portrayed a not-so-nice guy, the fake *ispiritista* Victor Espiritu, who hoodwinks his clients into believing that he can communicate with their dearly departed. Unknown to Victor, his son, Tom Tom, played by new child wonder BJ Forbes, could see dead people and talk to them.

"This is the first time I portrayed the role of a father who was not a good influence on his son," said Vic, who has popularized roles of the flawed everyman.

"But I agreed to do the role of Victor Espiritu because the character redeems himself in the end with the help of his son," Vic said.

In real life, Vic is a cool Dad. He has two children, Oyo Boy and Danica, by ex-wife Dina Bonnevie; a son, Vico, by former lover Coney Reyes; and a daughter, Paulina, by another former lover, Angela Luz.

"I owe my children's upbringing to their mothers," said Vic. "They raised them well. The mothers also instilled in them discipline, which I can only do when my children are with me. But I spend most of my weekends with them. In fact, Oyo Boy now lives with me. I'm not the strict type of a father. I don't meddle in my children's personal life, not unless they want me to."

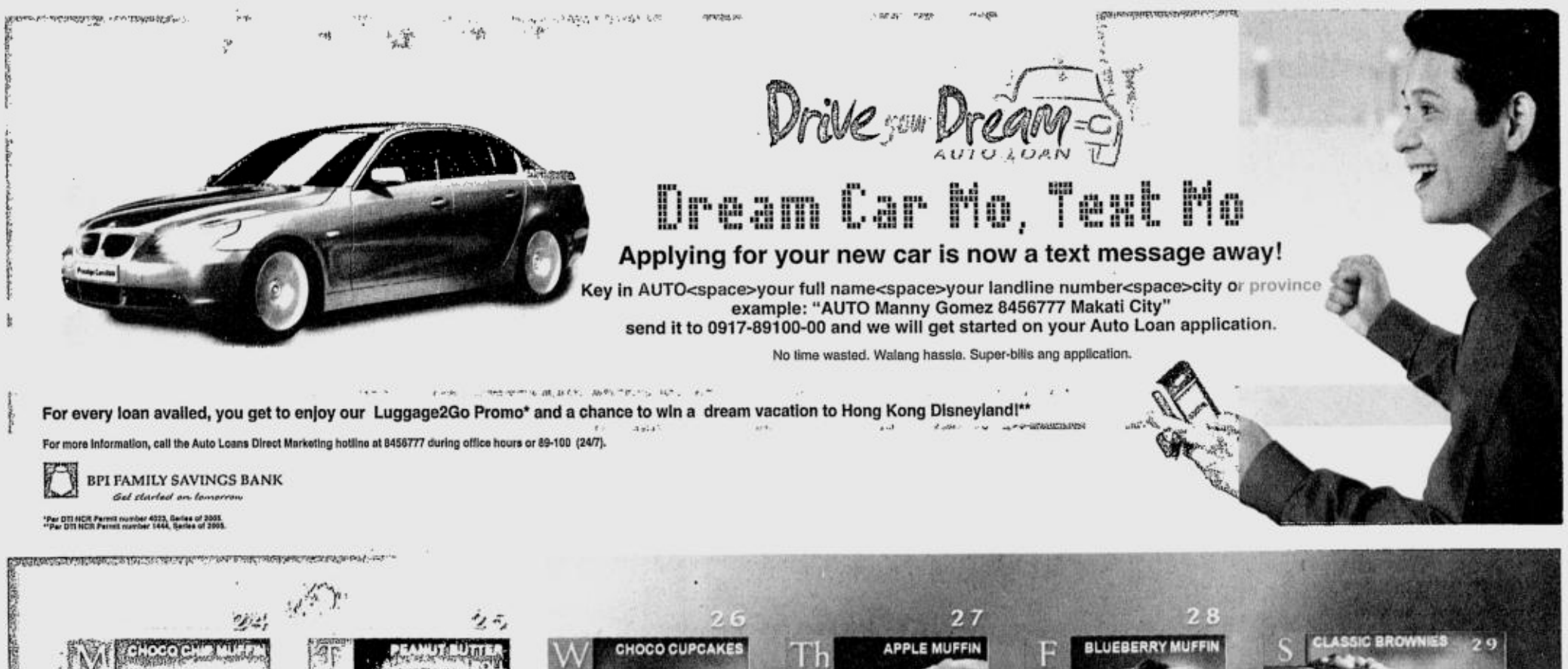
Officially a single Dad, Vic is in a relationship with a young model, the same age as Danica. Both are in their early 20s. The model is based abroad.

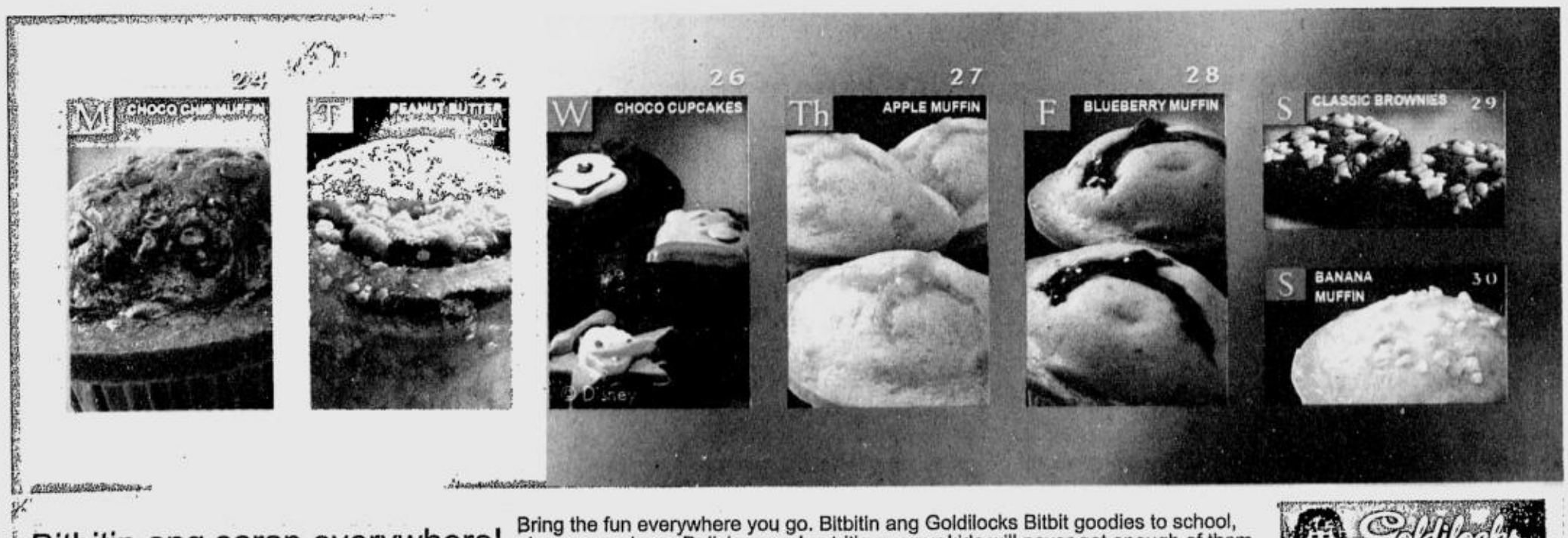
"That doesn't bother me," said Vic, referring to their long-distance relationship. "With technology, we are always in touch."

He claimed he no longer hankers for marriage.

"I think I'd die a single man," he said.

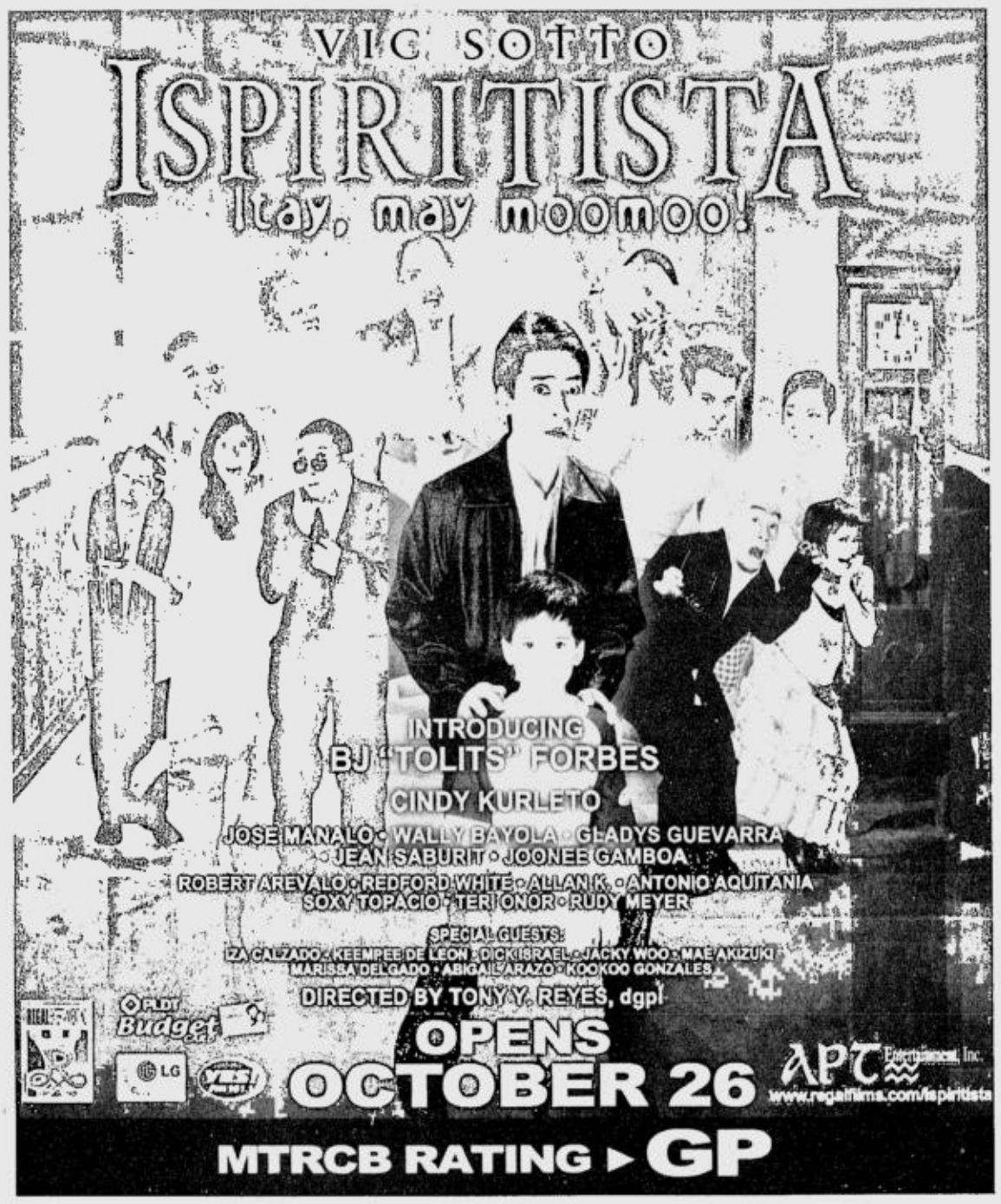
Vic would also die a happy man. He has fulfilled most of his dreams. Today, he holds the record for the highest movie box-office take in the recent history of the Metro Manila Film Festival with "Okay Ka, Fairy Ko," his entry last year, which grossed more than P100 million.



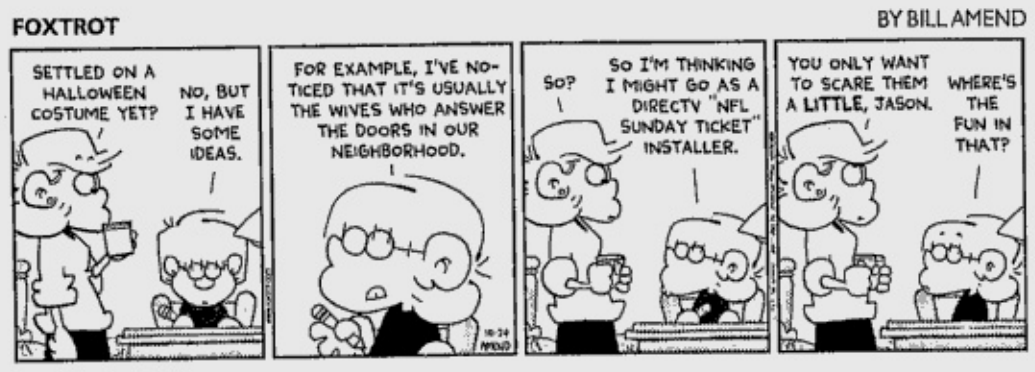


WHO WILL SURVIVE THE 'HOUSE OF WAX'?

Based on the horrifying 1953 classic, "House of Wax," is now on DVD from Warner Home Video. This edge-of-your-seat shocker from Village Roadshow Pictures stars Elisha Cuthbert ("24") Chad Michael Murray ("One Tree Hill"), Paris Hilton ("A Simple Life") and Jared Padalecki ("Gilmore Girls"). From director Jaume Collet-Serra, the DVD includes chilling special features such as a gag reel and a visual effects featurette. Available in stores for P499 for DVD and P275 for VCD on widescreen and full-frame DVD formats.



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're dramatic! Because you have high standards, whatever you do, you do well. Details matter. You have a fine, analytical mind. You're extremely brave. You often play the role of the hero or heroine both in your mind and in real life. Major changes await you now (perhaps as significant as in 2006-07).
Birthdate of: Moss Hart, playwright/director; Kevin Kline, actor; Bill Wyman, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Ever since 1996, it's been a new world for you. Now it's time to get serious about your life path. What do you really want to do to sing your song?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have important decisions to make regarding home, real estate and your family. You have to decide what stays and what goes. Where will you build your refuge?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A lot of changes will take place in the next two years. Residential changes and changes of jobs are inevitable now. (You're floating.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): More than any other sign, you're coming to terms with your basic values in life. In other words, what really matters? Once you know this, the rest all falls into place.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Depending on when you were born, this year or next, you're in an entirely new sandbox. You're on a new journey! In fact, you're about to reinvent yourself!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's time to let go of things: people, possessions, places, jobs and even ideas and beliefs. Get rid of dead wood. Streamline your life. Move on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This continues to be a powerful time in your life. You see what is working, and you see what is not working. Make the changes you want. (You can do it now.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The next few years are a culmination. You might say they are a time of harvest. Where you have planted well, expect success.

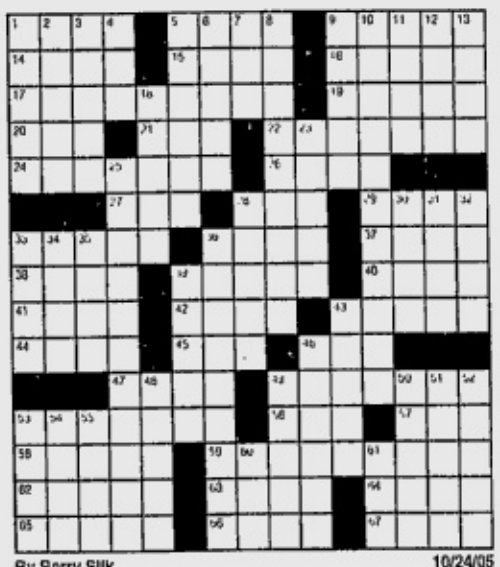
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Increased travel, study and discussions with others can put you on the map now. You see clearly where you want to go. Now you have to move in that direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Resources that were formerly available to you are now cut off. This forces you to rely on yourself. That's what this is all about. A year from now, you'll be stronger.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Relationships are strained now. Some will bite the dust. Others will need adjustments. That which is meant to be will endure. (You're getting stronger.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): In the next few years, you'll be busting your buns! You have to work hard now to build, construct and create what you need. You can do it.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

10/24/05

ACROSS
1 Tableland
5 Prod
9 Don or Samuel
14 In the thick of
15 Jason's craft
16 Bottled spirit?
17 Cardinal of legends
19 Fairy-tale creature
20 Pub preference
21 Vanity
22 Paired up
24 Interferes
26 Curds' partner
27 Mtn. stat
28 Luau dish
29 Martial arts school
33 Durable trousers
36 Actress Laura
37 Building beam
38 The yoke's on them
39 White with age
40 Like a lot
41 Agile
42 Off course
43 Twinkle
44 Head cover
45 NBC classic
46 __-Magnon
47 Caesar's accusation
49 Rear
53 Riga native
56 Thanksgiving tuber
57 Lennon's Yoko
58 Watch for
59 Mel Blanc voice
62 Mediterranean island
63 Coup d'__
64 Feast the eyes on
65 Bridge support
66 Bryan Ferry's group, __ Music
67 Passing buck?

DOWN
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2 Novelist Zola
3 Sorted by dimension
4 Wood-shaping tool
5 Gizmo
6 Cookie treats
7 Old Turkish title
8 Comforting words
9 Texas A&M student
10 "Dream On" co-star
11 Shortly
12 Play charades
13 Ranked player
18 Raises one's voice
23 Habitually complaining
25 "Taxi" co-star
28 Oyster's prize
30 Hautboy
31 Jakarta's island
32 Utah city near Provo
33 Rib
34 Trade show
35 Dynamic starter?
36 Australia's location
39 "__ la vista, baby!"
43 Soiled
46 Sly
48 Powerful man
49 One way to communicate
50 Overcharge
51 I give up!
52 Fireplace tool
53 Aladdin's possession
54 On vacation
55 Like some orders
60 Trinidad sprinter Boldon
61 Pentagon grp.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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10/24/05

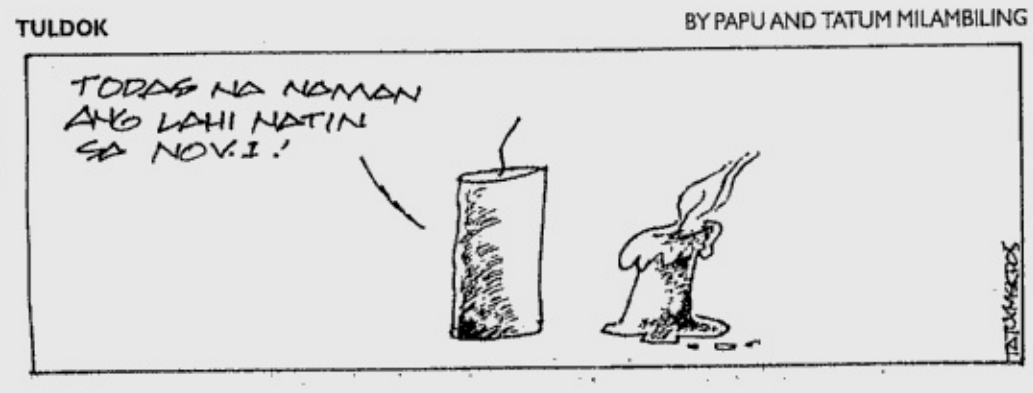
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



How to make it big in the film fest circuit . . .

. . . By 'doing your own thing,' says Jacob Wong, curator of the Hong Kong International Film Festival

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FOR SOMEONE WHO IS SO POWerful, he is quite shy," independent director Rico Ilarde described Jacob Wong, curator of the Hong Kong International Film Festival.

Wong has recommended East Asian films to the Berlin and Locarno international film festivals. He led Locarno organizers to Brillante Mendoza's "Masahista," which eventually won the Golden Leopard award in the Swiss film fest.

"He has helped a lot of Filipino filmmakers," Ilarde said.

True to form, Wong shrugged off the description, saying: "I wouldn't say I am helping them. Actually, they are helping us."

A former journalist for Asiaweek magazine, Wong started curating the Hong Kong film fest in 1995. One of his first assignments was to assemble a retrospective of the movies of the recently departed Filipino National Artist for Film, Ishmael Bernal.

Wong visited Manila recently, to act as juror in the Digital Lokal competition of the 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival.

He sat down with INQUIRER Entertainment hours before the Cinemanila awards night, where "Tuli" emerged as the Best Digital Film winner. Later, Wong said he would be recommending "Tuli" to the Berlin Film Festival.

TAKE FIVE

What led you to Bernal movies?

I saw his movies—like the religious film, "Himala." I included that in the Hong Kong film fest retrospective, along with the comedy "Working Girls." Hong Kong has always had the tradition of programming Asian films even before Asian cinema became fashionable.

Why are you drawn to Filipino movies?

I am drawn to all kinds of movies. And the Philippines was a major powerhouse in filmmaking because of Bernal, Mike de Leon and Lino Brocka.

Although Philippine cinema isn't as active as it was in the '70s, I want to keep a lively interest in it . . .

What's your assessment of Philippine cinema today?

Before Cinemanila, there was Cinemalaya . . . There seems to be a bumper crop of digital films this year. Quality, of course, varies, but there is an impressive spectrum of styles and topics.

The digital camera has become a very useful instrument for young filmmakers in this country. It's an exciting year. I don't see this happening anywhere else in Asia. Here, indie filmmakers have a sense of community, which isn't happening in China.

I also noticed that major studios are coming in and supporting independent filmmakers.

These filmmakers aren't afraid to tackle large and complex issues.

For a while, I suspected that young Filipino filmmakers were so intimidated by Brocka and Bernal that they would end up merely following in the masters' footsteps.

How are the new filmmakers measuring up to Bernal, De Leon and Brocka?

I think things have changed. Maybe certain social conditions are still there, that's why we still see the social realist vein of Brocka and Bernal.

But I would like filmmakers to approach the same issues from another perspective. I would like to see a new sensibility. But it is also heartening to know that these artists are still very much concerned with social issues.

What's your advice to Filipino filmmakers?

Just do what you believe in. Do your own thing and do it well. I don't think money is a problem. Money is essential, but it is not important.

JACOB Wong JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Save your heart for Gary Lewis

THE SINGER WHO POPULARIZED hit songs "Save Your Heart For Me," "Everybody Loves A Clown," "Sealed With A Kiss" and other rock 'n' roll anthems of the '60s is coming to Manila.

"Gary Lewis & The Playboys—Live in Manila," will perform at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 28; The Manila Hotel on Oct. 29; and the Freedom Ring Amphitheater at the Expo Pilipino in Clarkfield, Pampanga, on Oct. 30.

Lewis and his group started out in the '60s making their mark with the first single, "This Diamond Ring," which went straight to No. 1. After their second hit "Count Me In" went to straight to No. 2, they recorded and released a number of Top 10 songs including "She's Just My Style" and "Sure Gonna Miss Her."

In 1965, Gary was named "Male Vocalist of the Year" by Cash Box magazine, winning over fellow nominees Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra. He was the first and only artist of the '60s to have his first seven releases reach Billboard magazine's Top 10 in the Hot 100 chart.

Today, after 41 years in the business, Lewis' songs are still being played on the radio and he is still very much in demand as a performer. He lives in New York and tours with his group composed of Brad Henderson, Nick Rather, Billy Sullivan and Bryan Fox.

"Gary Lewis and the Playboys—Live in Manila" is produced by Mane 'n' Tail, The Manila Hotel and Steve O'Neal Productions. Ticket prices at: P2,200, P1,800, P1,400, P1,000, P500 and P200 (for the Araneta Coliseum show); P3,500 each for the dinner show at The Manila Hotel and P1,200, P800, P500, P200 for the Pampanga show. For ticket inquiries and reservations, call 911-5555 or 527-0011 (The Manila Hotel).

SHOW TIME

October 24

Paolo Santos, Akafellas, and **Shayne and Sugar Factory** at **Bagaberde** Roxas Boulevard

Freestyle at **Tavern on the Square,** Greenbelt 3

Retrostars at **RJ Guitar Bar;** 9 p.m. Call 899-1658.

604 Band at **Suburbia**

Wency Cornejo at **Mugen** in Metrowalk, Pasig

Arpie & D'Multivitamins at The Westin Philippine Plaza's **Siete Pecados Live**

Bernie Uy at **Merk's**

Kathleen with **Bobby Cabral** at Diamond Hotel's **Sky Lounge**

October 25

Flinstones and the Gang at **Tavern on the Square,** Greenbelt 3

Mr. God & Company at **RJ Guitar Bar;** 9 p.m. Call 899-1658.

Nyoy Volante at **Suburbia**

GARY Lewis

Hyperbeat at The Westin Philippine Plaza's **Siete Pecados Live**

Nina and **Side A** at **Bagaberde** Roxas Boulevard

Jeli Mateo at Diamond Hotel's Sky Lounge

October 26

Side A at **Tavern on the Square,** Greenbelt 3

Moonstrucks at **RJ Guitar Bar;** 9 p.m. Call 899-1658.

RJ at **Discovery Suites** Serendipity Lounge; 9 p.m.

Art of Dona at **Mugen** in Metrowalk, Pasig

K and the Boxers at **Klownz Araneta**

Arpie & D'Multivitamins at The Westin Philippine Plaza's **Siete Pecados Live**

Wednesday Jazz Festival at Merk's with **Eddie Katindig** and **Judith Banal**

Shayne at Diamond Hotel's **Sky Lounge**

October 27

Robert Seña and **Isay Alvarez** in "Love You, Hate You, Love You," at **Merk's**

Elderly Brothers at **RJ Guitar Bar;** 9 p.m. Call 899-1658.

Silk at **Suburbia**

K and the Boxers at **Ratsky Malate**

Spooktacular Monster Party with Retrospect at The Westin Philippine Plaza's **Siete Pecados Live**

'PBB's' negative aspects scored

ABS-CBN HAS BEEN GOING ALL-OUT boasting and defending its reality show "Pinoy Big Brother" from its critics. Instructively, viewers who are concerned about the show's negative aspects have similarly revved up their opposition. Some sample reactions (excerpts):

Girly de Castro: "The participants were just like puppets who would do whatever was dictated by Big Brother at whatever time he wished, just like 'slaves' at the beck and call of someone you could not even look up to because of the crazy things he has asked them to do.

"You see them touching each other, with cameras even in the bathrooms, no privacy at all. Are these the values we want Filipinos to foster? Those who 'enjoy' watching the show aren't aware of the dangers it could pose..."

Anak TV Seal College of Jurors member **Guillermo Dionisio:** "I think the program is objectionable because it is, in fact, contrary to reality. The life we live in our own homes is private, not to be seen by others.

"We require privacy because we humans possess intimacy *(kaloobán)*. We are not animals, plants or bacteria ... Hence, it is contrary to reality and reason to show something private as public (unless we are turning into objects).

"It is our sense of of privacy that protects us from being reduced to mere objects. It's good to be confident *(hindi mahiyain)*, but definitely not to be shameless *(walang hiya)*..."

Mignonette Reposar: "I believe the show doesn't promote positive Filipino values. It's like exposing yourself inside and out in exchange for material rewards. And I'm worried about the program's implications to the relationships of its contestants who are married..."

Richard C. Rodis: "The show is irritating because it promotes voyeurism, like watching life being lived by others, instead of going out and living it yourself. With programs like this, the country's couch potatoes will grow roots—(there will be) more potatoes!"

Other viewers have their own reasons for not finding much to like in the show, or for ceasing to watch it. Are all of these nay-sayers in the minority? Perhaps, if more people speak up, our TV people will finally pay attention to their concerns.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'The Horsemen'

EVERY Saturday at 11 p.m., Animal Planet screens "The Horsemen," a limited series on the best "horse people" in the world. Last Saturday, the focus was on the Kyrgyz (Kyrgyzstan). This is a rocky country in the heart of Central Asia, where nomadism has been the only lifestyle of the Tchabanes. From June to October, the Kyrgyz shepherds leave their villages on horseback to reach the high pastures with their herds. The Tchabanes are proud of their equestrian games, where they confront each other in impressive collective competitions.

Predator's Prey

STILL on Animal Planet, "Predator's Prey" airs every Saturday at 8:30 p.m. The series exposes the cunning survival tactics employed by predators' less aggressive but more clever counterparts.

Featured last Saturday were four groups of animals working as a team to avoid being a predator's next meal: a family of meerkats vs. the biggest eagle in Africa; Japanese honeybees that have discovered a special way of dealing with the vicious giant hornet; a rodent army that bands together to confront a constricting snake; and an army of termites battling to save its fortress from a hungry giant.

Side A tour sked

SIDE A's North America Tour includes these shows: Nov. 4, California Center for the Performing Arts.; Nov. 5, Henderson Pavilion, Las Vegas, Nevada; Nov. 13, La Villa Real Center, McAllen, Texas; Nov. 18, The Orpheus Theater, Texas; Nov. 26, Rexall Center, Toronto, Canada; Dec. 2, Landmark Loew's Jersey Theater, New Jersey; Dec. 4, Gateway Theater, Chicago; Dec. 9, KNOB Hill Masonic Center, San Francisco.

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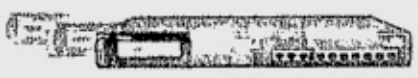
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OFW remittances seen up 20%

$10B expected by yearend, $11.3B in '06

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS expects bank remittances from overseas Filipino workers to surge to a new high of $10.3 billion by year's end or 20 percent better than the inflows in 2004.

Migrant workers are seen to pump in at least $11.3 billion through the banking channel next year—10 percent higher than the projected contribution for 2005, latest BSP forecasts showed.

Throughout the years, the Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumer demand.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. on Friday said the strong inflows from services could perk up the domestic economy and compensate for the slack in export growth.

It was earlier reported that the government was expecting a lower export growth of 6 percent for this year and 8 percent next year versus the two-year target of 10 percent.

The more bearish outlook for exports factored in the sluggish demand for electronics, which accounted for 60 percent of total export receipts so far this year.

With that, the country was expected to earn only $40.9 billion from exports

OFW REMITTANCES / B2

GREEN FIELDS OF BACSIL
A farmer carrying a bamboo basket walks past a sugar cane field in Ilocos Norte. The village of Bacsil North is the primary source of sugar cane in northern Luzon. The cane juice is extracted by backyard mills, and fermented to produce vinegar and a local wine called basi. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Bank heir eludes P400-M SC order /B5
BDO willing to pay more for EPCIB /B4

Gov't hikes inflation forecasts

THE GOVERNMENT IS BRACING for a higher inflation rate regime over the next two years due to soaring oil prices and growing money supply that perks up consumer spending.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee sees the annual inflation rate overshooting government targets to 8-8.5 percent in 2006, and 4-5 percent in 2007, latest official forecasts showed.

The government's original target was to keep inflation within 4-5 percent for 2006, and 3-4 percent for 2007.

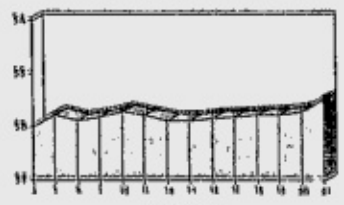
But Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. on Friday said that the 2007 inflation target range may be adjusted upwards to 4-5 percent in line with the recent assessment on consumer prices, money supply and economic output.

"It's the direction, but it's not final," Tetangco said.

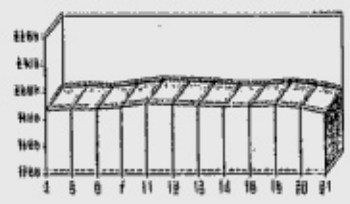
The BSP governor said the

GOV'T/ B2

INDICATORS
CURRENCIES



OCTOBER
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱55.45 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 21, 2005
¥115.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 21, 2005
GOLD: $463.10-463.60
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 20, 2005



Lower earnings seen

POLITICAL NOISE AND WORRIES OVER softer earnings in 2006 are expected to distract investors this week, AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report.

"Sentiments are turning negative as global growth forecasts are being cut while interest rates are rising," AB Capital Securities wrote. "Add to this, the country's ever volatile political environment, is turning foreign investors off. Although investors are not pushing the panic button yet, it makes sense to lighten up

NEGATIVE/ B6

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Owners, Laguna Garden Café
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Sustainable agriculture works

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

A FEW YEARS AGO, I AND A COLLEAGUE IN the Ateneo Economics Department did a survey of rice farmers around the country, and found that many of them had seen declining yields per hectare over time. The only logical explanation seemed to be that the quality of the land they were planting to rice year after year was deteriorating through time. Many were getting less than 50 cavans of palay per hectare, or less than half of what had been commonly achieved in the 1960s with the Masagana 99 program.

Farmers commonly described the situation to us as "napapagod ang lupa" (the soil is tired or exhausted). It's an interesting way of putting it, and I defer to the wisdom of people who have spent the good part of their lives eking out a living from tilling the land. They must know what they are talking about.

Magsaysay's DOFS

Two weekends ago, I found myself in the town of Magsaysay in Davao del Sur, witnessing a unique project of the municipal government under Mayor Arthur Davin called the Diversified Organic Farming System or DOFS. I say it's unique as I've heard of numerous NGOs pushing and practicing organic farming and sustainable agriculture. But this was the first time I was seeing a local government unit (LGU) actually embracing and propagating the concept.

What was particularly heartening here was that the municipal government's NGO partner, the Don Bosco Center, attested that it was the LGU that sought them out, not the other way around, which was the more normal experience. I know of many similar NGOs promoting sustainable agriculture who are merely tolerated, even humored, by the LGU or the Department of Agriculture (DA), but typically do not receive any serious government assistance. Betsy Ruizo of the Don Bosco Center describes their relationship with other LGUs as "peaceful coexistence" at best. As such, these initiatives remain few and relatively isolated, even though a number of them have reaped recognition and awards for positive achievements.

Cheap fertilizer

DOFS, which the Magsaysay LGU claims to have 138 farmer-adopters covering 122 hectares so far, promotes a self-sustaining farming system where the farm family combines production of rice, fruits, and vegetables with raising livestock like goats and cattle. No chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides are used. Soil fertilization is provided by all-natural organic fertilizers, much of it made on-farm out of animal manure and compost from organic solid waste.

Does it work? DOFS farmers swear that their yields have increased over time, even though the initial impact of the shift may be to slightly reduce yield—though this does not necessarily always happen. By the third crop, they typically match or exceed what they used t o attain with chemical fertilizers, i.e. once the soil is fully rejuvenated. On the other hand, those farmers using chemical fertilizers find that they have to keep raising fertilizer application year after year even just to maintain yield levels they have been accustomed to. With rapidly rising fertilizer prices, this is clearly an unsustainable situation.

Low input, high return

To control pests, crops are sprayed with a mixture of—guess what—milk and honey. DOFS farmers all attest to their superior effectiveness compared to chemical pesticides, not to mention the avoidance of toxic chemicals. A recent pest infestation reportedly led to tremendous damage to conventionally grown crops. But the crops sprayed with the milk-honey mixture somehow proved more resistant. Whereas the former were reportedly lucky to salvage 10-20 cavans per hectare, the DOFS farms still managed 60-70 cavans. It was explained to me that milk and honey were part of a biological control system that attracts predators who feed on the pests infesting the plants.

The clear advantage of DOFS over the usual farming system lies in the cash costs involved, apart from the price premium organically grown rice fetches in the market. With very little cash costs required, DOFS gives the farmer a significantly higher net income per hectare (P24,434 as against P16,984), even under the slightly diminished yield that initially results from the shift. Moreover, it makes it unnecessary for farmers to borrow working capital, cutting their dependency on trader-lenders who later take advantage by paying lower prices for the committed harvest. Early DOFS adopter Aling Lorna Silvano and her husband Mang Dado attest that they have not incurred new debts since they practiced DOFS. She will soon finish paying off previously incurred ones. DOFS has, in effect, liberated them from bondage to their creditors.

Vested interests?

Mayor Davin and DOFS project manager Carlos Ortiz tell me that one of their more formidable early challenges had been lack of support from the DA, whose current pet program on promoting input-intensive hybrid rice is seen by government technicians to be subverted by DOFS. And yet farmers I met attest that their yields hardly increased using the government's imported hybrid rice seeds, while having had to spend more on inputs. DOFS made more economic sense for them. One farmer expressed suspicion that hybrid rice is being pushed because some people are making money from seed procurements. True or not, DOFS deserves much more than just token support from DA. Magsaysay is showing that sustainable agriculture works—and could improve a lot of people's lives while sustaining our environment. Truly a win-win situation.

Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ang Bangkong May Damdaming Bayan

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 30, 2005

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	5,373,562,114
Due from Bangko Sentral		14,312,570,416
Due from Other Banks		1,315,028,960
Interbank Loans Receivable		24,373,547,409
Trading Account Securities (Net)		97,012,165
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		100,500,319,741
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		107,257,202,337
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		-
Equity Investments (Net)		4,882,479,755
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		5,099,013,781
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		13,700,021,381
Others		19,145,587,823
TOTAL ASSETS	P	296,056,345,882
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	75,764,170,644
Savings Deposits		126,639,305,647
Time Deposits		27,497,580,982
Special/Other Deposits		1,059,284,527
Due to Bangko Sentral		79,569,024
Due to Banks		77,029,510
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		966,825,004
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		452,967,732
Interbank Borrowings		-
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		26,663,520,443
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,584,945,269
Other Liabilities		10,271,341,734
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	273,293,000,028
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	11,471,000,000
Surplus		8,077,696,934
Surplus Reserves		2,854,552,221
Other Capital Accounts		359,294,699
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,762,745,854
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	296,056,345,882
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	3,534,276,220
Bills for Collection		1,151,623,799
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		12,871,911,150
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(601,752,750)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
Invested in:		
- Government Securities		21,317,310,074
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		16,864,471
- Loans and Discounts		156,314,858
- Other Assets		3,218,523,224
Accountabilities:		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		14,465,500,951
- Common Trust Funds		1,883,887,293
- Investment/Fund Management		8,359,624,383
Other Contingent Accounts		43,345,518,038
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	85,010,589,084

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 30, 2005

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	5,375,188,728
Due from Bangko Sentral		14,312,570,416
Due from Other Banks		1,418,960,315
Interbank Loans Receivable		24,373,547,409
Trading Account Securities (Net)		97,012,165
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		100,503,591,723
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		107,401,153,014
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		-
Equity Investments (Net)		3,970,310,114
Bank Premises, Furniture,Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		5,333,309,564
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		13,738,635,284
Others		20,132,917,835
TOTAL ASSETS	P	296,657,196,567
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	75,745,066,395
Savings Deposits		126,625,943,452
Time Deposits		27,497,580,982
Special/Other Deposits		1,059,284,527
Due to Bangko Sentral		79,569,024
Due to Banks		77,029,510
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		979,623,377
Bills Payable:		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		452,967,732
Interbank Borrowings		-
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		26,663,520,443
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		4,178,600,897
Other Liabilities		10,302,560,628
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	273,890,055,477
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	11,471,000,000
Surplus		8,082,189,095
Surplus Reserves		2,854,647,296
Other Capital Accounts		359,294,699
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,767,131,090
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	296,657,196,567
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	3,534,276,220
Bills for Collection		1,151,623,799
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		12,871,911,150
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(601,752,750)
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
Invested in:		
- Government Securities		21,317,310,074
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		16,864,471
- Loans and Discounts		156,314,858
- Other Assets		3,218,523,224
Accountabilities:		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		14,465,500,951
- Common Trust Funds		1,883,887,293
- Investment/Fund Management		8,359,624,383
Other Contingent Accounts		43,345,518,038
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	85,010,589,084

OTHER INFORMATION

1 Deposits of:		
a. Government	P	151,810,896,800
b. Banks		4,815,342,268
c. Trust Department		872,880,108
2 Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		23.65%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		4.78%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		12,209,459,452*
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		0.24 %
5 Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		38,873,102,398
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		1,193,092,722
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		18,388,338,455
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		12.76%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		6,531,491,786
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		4.36%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		17,966

Includes Loans Classified as "Loss" which are fully covered by Allowance for Probable Losses amounting to P1,254,233,921.07

I/We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and GILDA E. PICO of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO — SVP, Controllership Group
Sgd. GILDA E. PICO — Acting President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 20th day of October 2005 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 06018661, issued in Manila on January 12, 2005 and Residence Certificate No. 16003244 issued in Calamba, Laguna on January 4, 2005.

Doc. No. 107
Page No. 23
Book No. III
Series of 2005

AMADO ALEXIS G. CLAROS
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2006
PTR No. 3620248/1-10-05/MLA
IBP No. 635640/1-10-05/Laguna

I/We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and GILDA E. PICO of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO — SVP, Controllership Group
Sgd. GILDA E. PICO — Acting President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 20th day of October 2005 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 06018661, issued in Manila on January 12, 2005 and Residence Certificate No. 16003244 issued in Calamba, Laguna on January 4, 2005.

Doc. No. 97
Page No. 21
Book No. III
Series of 2005

CESAR G. CABANES
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2006
PTR No. 3620247/1-10-05/MLA
IBP No. 632075/1-05-05/Camarines Sur

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Gov't urged to respect sanctity of contracts

By Abigail L. Ho

PAGBILAO, QUEZON—ON THE HORIZON IS the renegotiation of the contracts of independent power producers, and one of them—Mirant Philippines Corp.—has seen fit to remind the government to respect the sanctity of contracts and focus on the development of the market.

"The IPP contracts have been looked at at one time in the past," said James Harris, Mirant Philippines president. "It seems to me that the real focus should begin in the development of the market and on privatization and competition. It's really important that the sanctity of contracts is respected."

Harris on Saturday did not say how the new round of renegotiation would affect Mirant's future investment plans for the country. He did however say that it would be good to focus on the market as the country's generation sector showed good potential for growth.

According to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, the IP renegotiation should be viewed as a step toward achieving a stable policy and regulatory framework.

He pointed out that RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), provided for the review of IPP contracts, when necessary.

And these reviews, not renegotiation, will be held with the approval of everyone concerned, Lotilla said.

Government would not on its own call for a review or renegotiation, he added.

An inter-agency committee (IAC), led by the Department of Finance, was earlier formed to review the country's IPP contracts in a bid to generate savings that would eventually translate to lower rates for consumers.

To date, at least 35 contracts are still considered active.

The National Power Corp. said that it was able to reduce its obligations by more than P8 billion last year after it completed the renegotiation of some IPP contracts.

OFW remittances seen up 20%

From page B1

this year, and $44.1 billion next year as against the projected import bills of $49.2 billion and $53.8 billion, resulting in trade deficits of $8.3 billion and $9.7 billion, respectively.

Tetangco said the National Economic and Development Authority would have to study whether the government would need to downscale economic growth targets for 2005 and 2006 simply on account of weaker export earnings, notwithstanding the sharp improvement in the services account which was a big mitigating factor.

Earlier, the BSP also expected a growth in OFW remittances of only 5 percent for this year. This was eventually raised to 10 percent.

But for the first eight months of the year, OFW inflows coursed through banks had already hit $7 billion or 28 percent better than $5.5 billion a year ago, prompting the BSP to again raise its forecast growth in remittances.

Gov't hikes inflation . . .

From page B1

DBCC would meet this week to discuss the government's latest macroeconomic outlook.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the DBCC would no longer change its 2005 and 2006 targets, but would set the path for 2007. Under an inflation-targeting approach to monetary policy, he said the target for any given year would have to be announced more than a year in advance.

Asked about the impact of the full implementation of the expanded value added tax on consumer prices, Guinigundo said the new measure would not have a lasting impact.

For the remainder of this year, he said, the impact would be an increase in the average inflation rate by only 0.11 percentage given the delay in the implementation.

But by next year when the removal of exemptions would have been implemented and the VAT rate increased from 10 to 12 percent, Guinigundo said the impact would be an increase in the inflation rate by 2 percentage.

However, he said the VAT-related pressures would dissipate by 2007 leading to an increase in inflation rate of only 0.2 percent during the year.

Doris C. Dumlao

Jan.-Aug. BOI approvals steady with P145.6B worth of new projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MANUFACTURING ventures continue to drive investment commitments as the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority approved 365 projects worth P145.6 billion in the first eight months.

According to data from the Department of Trade and Industry, this year's approved projects were about P1 billion less than the P146.6 billion given the go-ahead in the same period in 2004.

However, investments in the manufacturing sector increased 316 percent to P109.8 billion or 79 percent of the total.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said 332 projects in the manufacturing and services sectors would create some 65,975 direct jobs when fully operational, or 98 percent of the total.

24,350 jobs

"The continuous increase in manufacturing projects validates the wisdom of developing (this sector) because they generate the most jobs and they facilitate the transfer of technology into the country," Favila said.

Trade Secretary Elmer C. Hernandez said investments in information technology-based services increased by 10 percent in the first eight months with 67 projects worth P6.35 billion.

The ventures involve software development and business process outsourcing, (BPOs) and are expected to generate up to 24,350 jobs.

Hernandez said local investors continued to be the major source of outlay with commitments of P89.45 billion while foreign investments account for P56.15 billion.

Among foreign sources of investments, Japan is bringing in the biggest amount with P23.2 billion, while Korea has P9.8 billion, the United States with P9.4 billion, and The Netherlands with P7.6 billion.

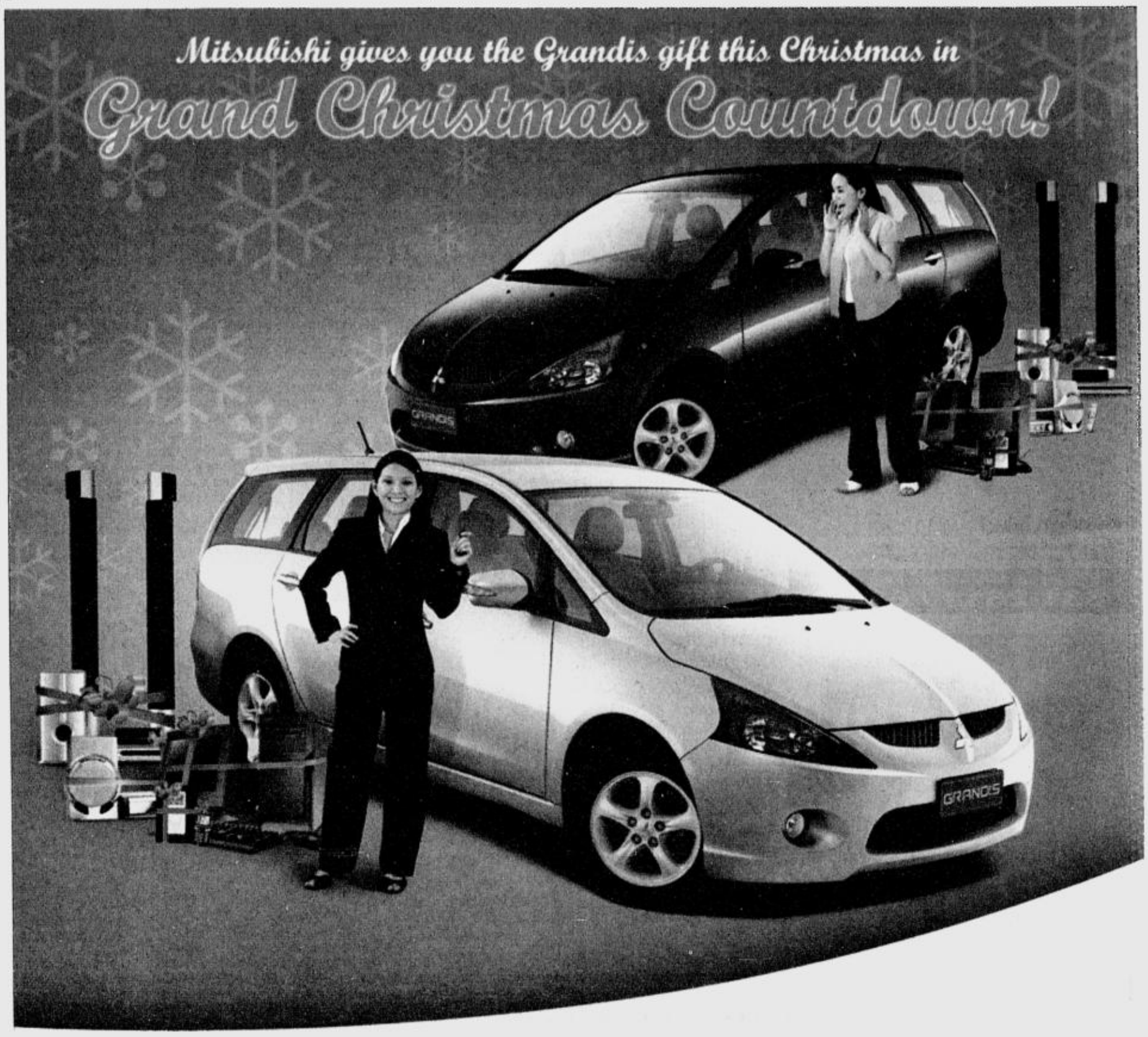
Approved projects

Among the manufacturing projects, 41 percent is related to coke, refined petroleum and other fuel products; 25 percent to chemicals and chemical products; 9 percent to radio, television and communications equipment; 7 percent to manufacturing non-electronic components; and 18 percent to other products.

In August alone, approved projects reached P11.9 billion or 631 percent more than the P1.63 billion listed in the same period last year.

There were 52 projects registered, which are expected to create 13,283 new jobs at full operation.

Favila said more investments were expected to pour in throughout the rest of the year based on leads and proposals under consideration. These would be in IT, mining, logistics, automotive, and chemicals.



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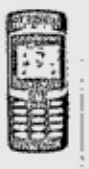

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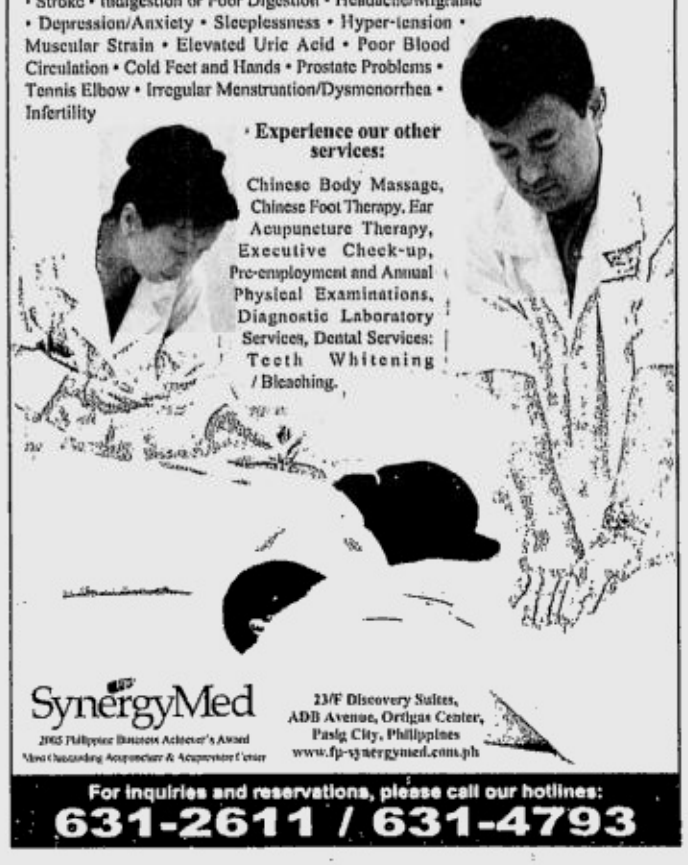

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Bayantel to sell remittance unit

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC., THE telecommunications company of the Lopez group, is selling its remittance business to concentrate on core operations.

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Tunde Fafunwa, chief consultant of Bayantel, said the company was in talks with buyers interested in the right to operate more than 500 money shops under RCPI.

RCPI, or Radio Communications Phils. Inc., is a defunct telecom company that ventured into retail store fronts that accept remittances and sell tickets.

However, Bayantel, a subsidiary of Benpres Holdings Corp., is not selling RCPI's franchise, license or equipment.

"We are selling the operations of the retail store fronts and the name of that business, but not RCPI as a company," said Fafunwa in an interview after his speech at the Management Association of the Philippines' conference last week.

Selling its money shop business, said Fafunwa, will cut Bayantel's projected revenue this year of P6 billion to only about P5.5 billion.

But it would give the company a one-time revenue from the sale.

The rationalization of the revenue stream is crucial at this stage of Bayantel's recovery, according to Fafunwa.

A store front remittance business, said Fafunwa, would need a lot of cash because of the nature of its operations.

"This type of business dispenses a lot of cash upfront. It is high growth and high margin but it's not our core business," he said.

Fafunwa said RCPI money shops were among the biggest in the country in terms of volume and reach.

It is the top agent of Western Union, he said.

Once RCPI is sold, Bayantel will concentrate on further growing its telecom business.

He said the third quarter revenue was "almost as good as second quarte,r" mostly on the strength of the high-speed Internet business.

So far, Fafunwa said 85 percent of Bayantel's installed capacity in the fixed-line business has been utilized.

Bayantel said it would take at least five more years before the company can fully turn its finance operations and swing to profit.

The Lopez phone company had been in the red for years.

For the meantime, the Benpres phone unit has to be content with continued growth in earnings before income tax, depreciation and amortization.

The company's Ebitda in the first half of the year reached P1.3 billion, 19 percent higher than P1.09 billion the previous year.

Fafunwa said Ebitda growth would likely average between 15 and 18 percent starting this year, down from a growth of 58 percent in 2004.

The Ebitda reflects the company's capacity to settle its debt and finance operations.

Bayantel has 280,000 fixed-line customers within its service area in the whole of Metro Manila and key provinces. It also operates a major telecom backbone nationwide.

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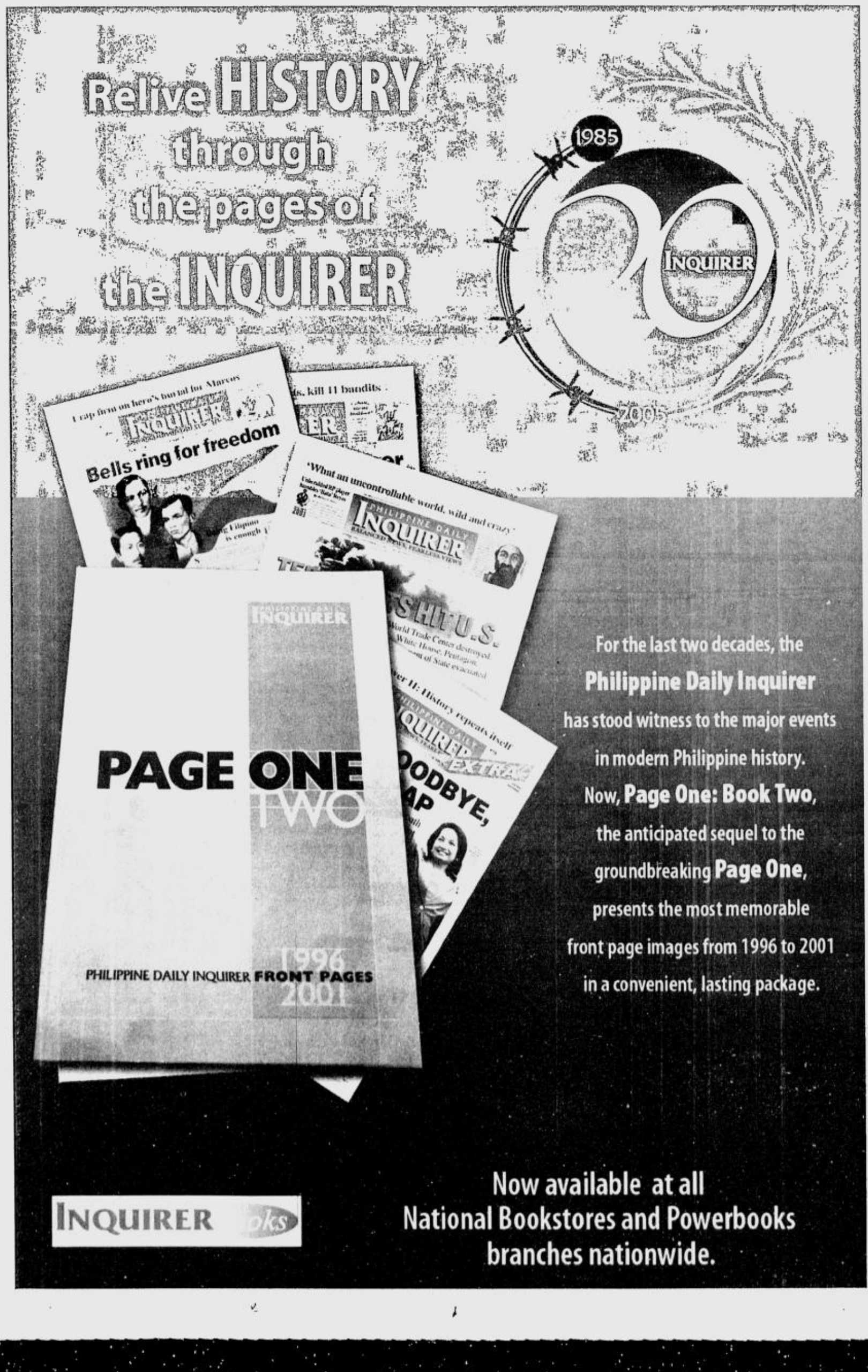

Pancake House to raise $4M for Teriyaki Boy

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PANCAKE HOUSE INC. WILL ISSUE FIVE-year convertible notes to raise the $4 million it needs to buy 70 percent of Japanese restaurant chain Teriyaki Boy Inc.

In a disclosure on Friday to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pancake House said it has gained board approval to strike an acquisition deal with Teriyaki Boy and Tonka Teriyaki Inc. to buy control of Japanese restaurant brand "Teriyaki Boy," which both companies operate in Metro Manila.

Investors Aureos Southeast Asia Fund, L.L.C. and Planters Bank Venture Capital Corp. for SMEs agreed to purchase the five-year convertible notes.

The investors signed an investment agreement on Friday with controlling shareholders Pancake chair Martin Lorenzo and Pancake House Holdings Inc. The agreement will provide investors with certain warranties and possibly allow these investors to nominate and elect one qualified representative to the company's board.

Teriyaki Boy serves traditional home-cooked Japanese meals with a modern twist. It was put up in August 2001 and is owned by the Tiu family led by Mary Tiu.

Teriyaki Boy operates 10 stores in the following locations: Madison Square amd the Promenade both in Greenhills, Tomas Morato in Quezon City, Glorietta 3 in Ayala, Festival Mall in Alabang, SM Baguio, SM Megamall, Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio, Eastwood City and Gateway Mall in Cubao.

SB Corp. eyes bigger market

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS GUARANtee and Finance Corp. is looking to expand its client base next year by fine tuning its direct and retail lending programs for small and medium enterprises.

Increasing lending exposures to province-based SMEs, providing needed capitalization to start-up companies and qualifying more company suppliers excluded from the Top 1,000 corporations are part of innovations to be introduced by SB Corp., president and chief operating officer Benel P. Lagua said in a briefing Friday.

He said the lower-than-expected availment of loans this year has prompted SB Corp. to re-assess its current portfolio of credit facilities for SMEs.

"We are slightly off target and may not be able to hit the P3.6 billion in loans we are aiming for by yearend," Lagua said. "The hard times also did not bode well for our lending activities and we would want some key innovative changes next year."

Lagua noted that part of this credit innovations is the new facility for start-up enterprises.

"Start-up entrepreneurs will finally find access to the formal credit with our new facility—the SME Financing for Enterprising and Able-Start-ups with Innovative Business Lines—where we will provide 50 percent of the initial capitalization they would need," he said.

A start-up company, Botika ng Munisipyo, engaged in the drugstore business, has qualified for this credit facility and has availed itself of some P1.5 million in loans from SB Corp.

Another new credit line to be extended by SB Corp. is its new set of micro-finance products to assist micro entrepreneurs.

Bank heir eludes P400-M SC order

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BANCO FILIPINO heir Albert "Bobby" Aguirre has found a way to escape a Supreme Court order to return his 62-hectare polo farm in Calatagan to the family of Bulacan Mayor Ricardo Silverio Sr., the original owner.

An Aguirre company has scheduled the extra-judicial sale next week of the contested Batangas property to satisfy an alleged P400-million loan that two Silverio companies, which had also fallen under the control of Aguirre, also through alleged blank deeds of sale/assignment, had not paid.

The distress sale is the latest legal maneuver by the billionaire polo player to keep his weekend hideaway—neighbors include the Zobels and the Madrigals—from being returned to the Silverios.

Aguirre gained control of the Calatagan farm after fellow polo player Ricardo Silverio Jr., the estranged son of the Bulacan mayor, failed to pay a P60-million loan, with the shares of the two companies that own the Calatagan farm, as collateral.

The elder Silverio claimed that his son, who has a history of pharmaceutical predilections, had spuriously gained control of the two family companies while the old man was overseas and illegally used the companies to borrow money from Aguirre.

Aguirre, according to the grapevine, had refused a proposal from the elder Silverio to repay his son's indebtedness and, instead, even offered the congressman-turned-mayor P50 million just to drop all claims on the Calatagan estate.

In August, the Supreme Court ordered Aguirre to return the Calatagan farm to the two Silverio corporations, but not after censuring the Balayan Regional Trial Court for passing on to the higher courts a judicial question that enabled Aguirre to hang on to the Calatagan property.

Balayan Judge Roberto Makalintal ex-parte recalled the writ of possession he issued to the Silverio companies in May 2000 after being informed that Aguirre had already gained control of the two Silverio companies and that there would be violence in the Calatagan farm should the writ still be enforced.

"Courts must execute its processes and should not succumb to threat by any party to resort to violence in case of such an enforcement," wrote ponente Justice Antonio Carpio.

(Disclosure: Banco Filipino has filed a P3-billion libel suit against Cocktales and key INQUIRER officers.)

Sandigan's turn to be duped

AFTER the Supreme Court, it is the Sandiganbayan's turn to be misled.

An incensed Sandigan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro last week lifted the 60-day temporary restraining order that she and two fellow justices issued late last month on behalf of Malacañang nominees, to prevent their losing majority control of the cash-rich Philcomsat Group.

The rescission was issued right in court after Leonardo-De Castro subjected a private lawyer of Malacañang nominee Enrique "Henry" Locsin to withering questions.

It was not clear why Locsin used a private lawyer, Sikini Labastilla, instead of the Office of the Solicitor General, to represent what allegedly was the government position.

The Sandigan TRO, ironically, was issued after the Supreme Court admitted to having fallen victim to a legal trickery from the Erap-era Philcomsat nominees, led by then chair and now "independent" director Benito "Bomboy" Araneta, to prevent the government from losing boardroom and management control of the telecom company.

The Philcomsat Group, which had over P1.2 billion in

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Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 10/20/2005	Valuation Date 10/21/2005
PELAC Dollar Bond Fund	US$ 1.006068	US$ 1.009127
PELAC Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.004795	US$ 1.009977

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P 100,000	P 17,000	P 27,000	P 36,000	P 47,526
P 1,000,000	P 170,000	P 270,000	P 360,000	P 475,260

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Q: I'm only 34 years old and I am experiencing hair loss. Is it possible to treat it? Jerry Lalic
A: It's a good thing that nowadays, a lot of men like you can face your hair loss problem. Hair loss has a lot of causes which can be medically explained. But the most common form of pattern baldness worldwide (see... you're not alone) is called MPHL or male pattern hair loss. Its fancy scientific name is androgenetic alopecia. It affects around 50% of men by age 40. Current studies suggest the prevalence of MPHL can reach up to 87%[1].
Research has shown that MPHL is related to the increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp[1]. If you reduce the amount of DHT in the scalp, you can prevent hair loss from continuing. In some men, hair can even be regrown[1].
Good news for men, there are now medicines that have an established mechanism of action in treating MPHL. See your dermatologist about your condition and the easiest and most convenient way to treat it.
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you can reverse male pattern hair loss[1]
Ask your doctor about MPHL. For information on the ProHAIR Program, call hotline number 878-6338. You can send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email: inquire@prohair-info.com.
This is a Medical Information Program of the
Philippine Dermatological Society
in cooperation with
MSD and ProHAIR
[1]Libecco JF Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004; 5 (4): 933-940

EMPIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31,2004

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P 154,334,565.62
Stocks	39,190,348.09
Real Estate	6,752,824.00
Security Fund	17,902.00
Other Investments	15,162,500.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	12,011,288.00
Premiums Receivable	7,459,628.00
Premiums Due from Ceding Companies	9,695,770.20
Premium Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies	266,228.00
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses	5,095,994.00
Loss Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies	448,640.00
Salvage Recoverable - Bond Loss	1,115,773.52
Accrued Investment Income	3,297,571.62
Electronic Data Processing Machine	119,176.00
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	P 254,968,209.05

LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	P 16,197,545.95
Reserve for Unearned Premiums	24,631,927.00
Catastrophe Loss Reserve	280,755.55
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	7,973,779.00
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	3,266,905.00
Loss Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers	12,798.00
Other Reinsurance Accounts Payable	317,885.77
Commissions Payable	12,794,219.00
Taxes Payable	6,253,055.65
Accounts Payable	1,206,071.00
Unearned Bond Discount	1,334,561.00
Other Liabilities	12,754,934.52
Total Liabilities	P 87,024,437.44

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid Up	P 50,000,000.00
Special Surplus Funds:	
Fluctuation Reserve - Stocks	7,867,889.09
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	139,274.50
Retained Earnings	109,936,608.02
Total Stockholders' Equity	P 167,943,771.61
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P 254,968,209.05

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2004 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978 as amended.)

BDO willing to pay more for EPCIB

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE BANCO DE ORO UNIVERsal Bank Group of retail tycoon Henry Sy Sr. is willing to pay more for the 29 percent stake of Social Security System in Equitable PCI Bank, said BDO chair Teresita Sy in a forum of the Management Association of the Philippines.

To merge the country's third biggest lender with Sy-led Banco de Oro Universal Bank, the Sy Group needs to accumulate more shares to get a controlling block.

It already bought the 24.76 percent shares in EPCIB held by the Go family.

"To be realistic, it (offer price to SSS) has to be higher. We are open (to increasing the offer price) but we don't know what price we will go into," Sy told reporters last week.

EPCIB's shares closed last Friday at P47.50 a share.

"At that time when we offered that, it was about 30 percent higher (than the prevailing market price). At this point, the market price is higher than the price at which we offered," Sy said.

The SM group earlier wanted to buy the 10-percent stake held by EBC Investments Inc. and the 29 percent owned by the state-owned Social Security System in the bank.

Sy bought the Go family's 24.76 percent stake in EPCIBank for P56.50 a share or a sum of P10.2 billion and another 10-percent stake in Equitable Card Network for P600 million.

Prior to the buyout, the SM group already had a 2.5 percent stake in EPCIB.

Based on BDO's previous offer of P43.50 to SSS, the SM group was readying a total of P11 billion in cash for two other blocks-P8 billion for the SSS stake and P3 billion for the EBCII stake.

If given the chance to push through with an earlier deal with the SSS that was stalled in court, the SM group was willing to renegotiate the price.

SSS president Corazon dela Paz had said: "If we see an opportunity to make more money for our members, we'll make the transaction with advice from informed sources so we can move forward."

GSIS president Winston Garcia, for his part, earlier said the pension fund would consider selling out only if given an offer above its acquisition cost of P92 a share.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 21, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	1,017,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	2,302,700
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	1,570
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	10,300
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	25.5	25.5	969,600
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	10,000
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	1,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	600
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	29,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Bankard Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	60,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.02	1	1	134,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2005	2000	2005	350
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	740,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	710	705	705	18,670
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.9	1,451,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1655	1655	1650	1655	123,610
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	600,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	11,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	11,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20	20.25	780,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	627,000
Petron Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.35	5,989,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	1,640,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	130,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	8,759,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	1,000,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.05	450,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	1,045,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	19,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28	28	28	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	33	33	194,900
Pancake House Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.75	49,000
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	430,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	749,000
San Miguel Corp. B	91	92	91	92	300
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	10,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	320,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.0075	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	287.5	290	285	290	170,330
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	290,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.95	187,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.14	2.16	8,485,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	24,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.77	0.8	1,300,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	4,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	21,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	2,170,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	120,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	329,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	700,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	42.5	41	41	1,035,200
House Of Investments Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	4	3.9	3.95	1,943,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	556,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	6,340,000
Paxys Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	214,000
Polar Property Holdings	2	2	2	2	2,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	220	220	220	255,110
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.125	1,330,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	1,620,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	50,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Steawel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	330,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.73	0.77	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	62,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	65,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	380,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14	14	13.75	13.75	131,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	3,000
Far Eastern University	620	620	620	620	500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.5	2,236,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	4,130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	30,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	8,373,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,000,000
City & Land Developers	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	440,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	270,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.3	6,864,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.92	140,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.91	0.93	0.9	0.93	80,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	74,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	278,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	9,670,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	7,720,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	160,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	178,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.96	0.99	0.95	0.99	2,530,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.18	2,813,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25	25	24.75	24.75	156,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	60,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	16,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	95,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000

CURRENCIES

October 23, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.831947	1.000000	55.7490
Japan	Yen	0.007215	0.008672	0.4835
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476456	1.774700	98.9378
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107226	0.128886	7.1853
Switzerland	Franc	0.645720	0.776156	43.2699
Canada	Dollar	0.706656	0.849401	47.3533
Singapore	Dollar	0.491375	0.590633	32.9272
Australia	Dollar	0.626560	0.753125	41.9860
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.206989	2.652801	147.8910
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221829	0.266638	14.8648
Brunei	Dollar	0.489928	0.588893	32.8302
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020336	0.024444	1.3627
UAE	Dirham	0.226528	0.272287	15.1797
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.202000	67.0103
Argentina	Peso	0.279646	0.336134	18.7391
Brazil	Real	0.372736	0.448029	24.9772
Denmark	Kroner	0.133993	0.161059	8.9789
India	Rupee	0.018443	0.022168	1.2358
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220442	0.264971	14.7719
Mexico	New Peso	0.076551	0.092014	5.1297
New Zealand	Dollar	0.583126	0.700918	39.0755
Norway	Kroner	0.128586	0.154560	8.6166
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013940	0.016756	0.9341
South Africa	Rand	0.126609	0.152184	8.4841
Korea	Won	0.000788	0.000947	0.0528
Sweden	Kroner	0.105458	0.126760	7.0667
Syria	Pound	0.016027	0.019264	1.0739
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024730	0.029726	1.6572
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000388	0.000466	0.0260

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KX-FT903 P 6,490
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KX-FP362 P 9,490

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KX-FL512 P 17,490

KX-FA57E Ink Film (70m)
• Film used for KX-FP342 and KX-FP362

KX-FA83E Toner Cartridge
• Toner used for KX-FL512

KX-FA84E Drum unit
• Drum unit used for KX-FL512

KEY FEATURES	KX-FT901	KX-FT903	KX-FT907	KX-FP342	KX-FP362	KX-FL512
Automatic Paper Cutter		•	•			
Document Feeder	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	20 sheets
Navigator Key	•	•	•	•	•	
64-Level Halftone	•	•	•	•	•	•
Copy Speed				4 PPM	4 PPM	10 PPM
Digital Speaker Phone			•		•	
Document Memory		20 pages (max)	20 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	170 pages (max)
Digital Answering System			•		•	
Sequential Broadcast		10 locations	10 locations	20 locations	20 locations	20 locations
Printer Function						•
Scanner Function						•
*Caller-ID Ready	•	•	•			•
Dial Lock Function	•	•	•			

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Negative . . .

From page B1

and take profits on some investments."

AB Capital also said the market was unimpressed by news that the Supreme Court upheld the expanded value added tax law, a key reform measure to plug the country's gaping fiscal deficit.

"Most investors chose to wait until it is actually implemented on Nov. 1," the brokerage said. "Some remain wary as there are moves to defer the implementation of the law to June of next year."

It said the market's decline also showed investors were wary about slowing economic growth with rising inflation and interest rates.

While corporate earnings are expected to be better this year, earnings won't be as strong in 2006 if costs of doing business remain high. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Phinma to bid for Tiwi, MakBan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING FIRM PHILIPPINE INvestment Management Inc. of former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. plans to bid for the 700-megawatt Tiwi and MakBan geothermal plants.

Del Rosario, Phinma's president, said the Phinma Group has submitted a letter of intent to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. for the 275- MW Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant located in Albay and the 425.73-MW MakBan plant in Laguna and Batangas provinces.

Del Rosario said separately in a recent forum by the Management Association of the Philippines that the Phinma Group may look for partners for its planned bid.

"If opportunity comes, we will go into capital raising," Del Rosario said. "But we think it is unrealistic until we show a good story or acquire a good power generating asset, especially if we have a consortium with us."

Aside from Tiwi-Makban, the Phinma Group is interested in the 193-MW Palinpinon geothermal power plants in Oriental Negros, and the 150-MW plants at Bacon-Manito (Bacman) in Sorsogon province.

The Phinma Group has interests in steel, power generation and oil exploration, low-cost housing development and financial services.

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Philamlife Global Bond Fund	US$ 1.0042	US$ 1.0063

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BUYING: Alabang A-1M, Mla Polo-2.1M, Mla Yacht-300K, QC Sports-130K, Sta. Elena A-1.2M
SELLING: Southwoods B-700K, Tagaytay Highlands-P750K, Midlands- 625K, Baguio-P545K, SPA & Lodge-P580K, P.Virgo-400k

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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
Makati City, Metro Manila

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING
November 11, 2005

To The Stockholders:

Pursuant to Article IV of the Amended By-Laws of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), notice is hereby given that the Special Meeting of the Stockholders of BPI will be held at Ballroom A and B, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City on Friday, November 11, 2005, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Calling of Meeting to Order,
2. Certification of Notice.
3. Determination and Declaration of Quorum.
4. Approval of the Articles and Plan of Merger between Prudential Bank and the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), with BPI as the surviving entity.
5. Other Matters.

In accordance with Article VII of the said By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Book of BPI will be closed from October 12, 2005 to November 11, 2005. Only Stockholders of record as of October 12, 2005 will be entitled to notice and to vote at this meeting.

If it will be inconvenient for you to attend the meeting, you may at your option, appoint another person to represent you thereat by means of a proxy, which should be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary of BPI, 19th Floor, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila, not later than 5:00 P.M. of October 28, 2005. Validation of proxies shall be held at the same office on November 4, 2005 at 4:00 P.M.

When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, guardian, or in any other representative capacity, please give full title and file papers showing your authority.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Sgd.) CARLOS B. AQUINO
Vice President & Corporate Secretary

Cocktales

From page B5

cash during the Erap years, had seen its cash assets dwindle to about P721 million with Araneta, a second cousin of Mike Arroyo, having allied himself with GMA nominees to stop the majority private owners from retaking control of their company.

Ironically, it was the same Sandiganbayan, although through a different division, that in 1999 approved a compromise agreement that effectively spelled the end of Malacañang control over the country's pioneering satellite communications company.

Despite having lost effective majority control, the Erap and now GMA nominees in the Philcomsat Group still managed to retain management and financial control of the telecom group by adroitly exploiting the simultaneous family feuds involving the controlling families of Philcomsat—the Ilusorios, the Pobladors, the Africas and the Enriles.

Money-go-round

- THE soon-to-be-released 2006 Honda Civic looks more akin to its sharp-looking, higher-end cousin, the Accord.
- THE Go Kim Pah heirs intend to bequeath to Ateneo de Manila University a portion of their multi-billion windfall from the sale of the family's Equitable PCI Bank shares.

Heard through the grapevine

THE NEGATIVE publicity coming out in certain columns opposing the appointment of Presidential Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez as Ombudsman have been traced back to a law firm in the LTA building.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

G & W Club Shares
FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE As of October 24, 2005

CLUB	SHARES AVAILABLE SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,200,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista Corp.		350,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	510,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	170,000	-
Canlubang Golf	-	450,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	70,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,300,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	400,000	-
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	90,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	180,000/Pls. Call*	160,000/200,000*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	88,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	110,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	350,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,300,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	-
Manila Polo	2,150,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	260,000/700,000*	180,000
Makati Sports Club	-	-
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	450,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa CC/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*	150,000/200,000**
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	-
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	180,000	150,000
Quezon City Sports Club	90,000/150,000/250,000**	-
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	Pls. Call	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	80,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	70,000/150,000**	-
Sherwood A/C	350,000	-
Spa & Lodge	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,600,000*
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Subic Yacht Club	Pls. Call	-
The Palms Country Club	260,000	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Highlands	Pls. Call	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	2,000,000	-
The Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Tower Club	200,000	-
Valley Golf	130,000	-
Valle Verde Ind	6,400,000	6,000,000
Wack-Wack Golf		

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of October 24, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,100,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	510,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	185,000
Canlubang	550,000	400,000
Canyon Woods	130,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	50,000
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	140,000	90,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	110,000	90,000
Forest Hills "B"	Please Call	180,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf "A"	350,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	180,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,300,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,700,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,175,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	370,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	720,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Metroclub "A"	120,000	90,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	160,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	430,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	130,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	500,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	Please Call	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,000,000

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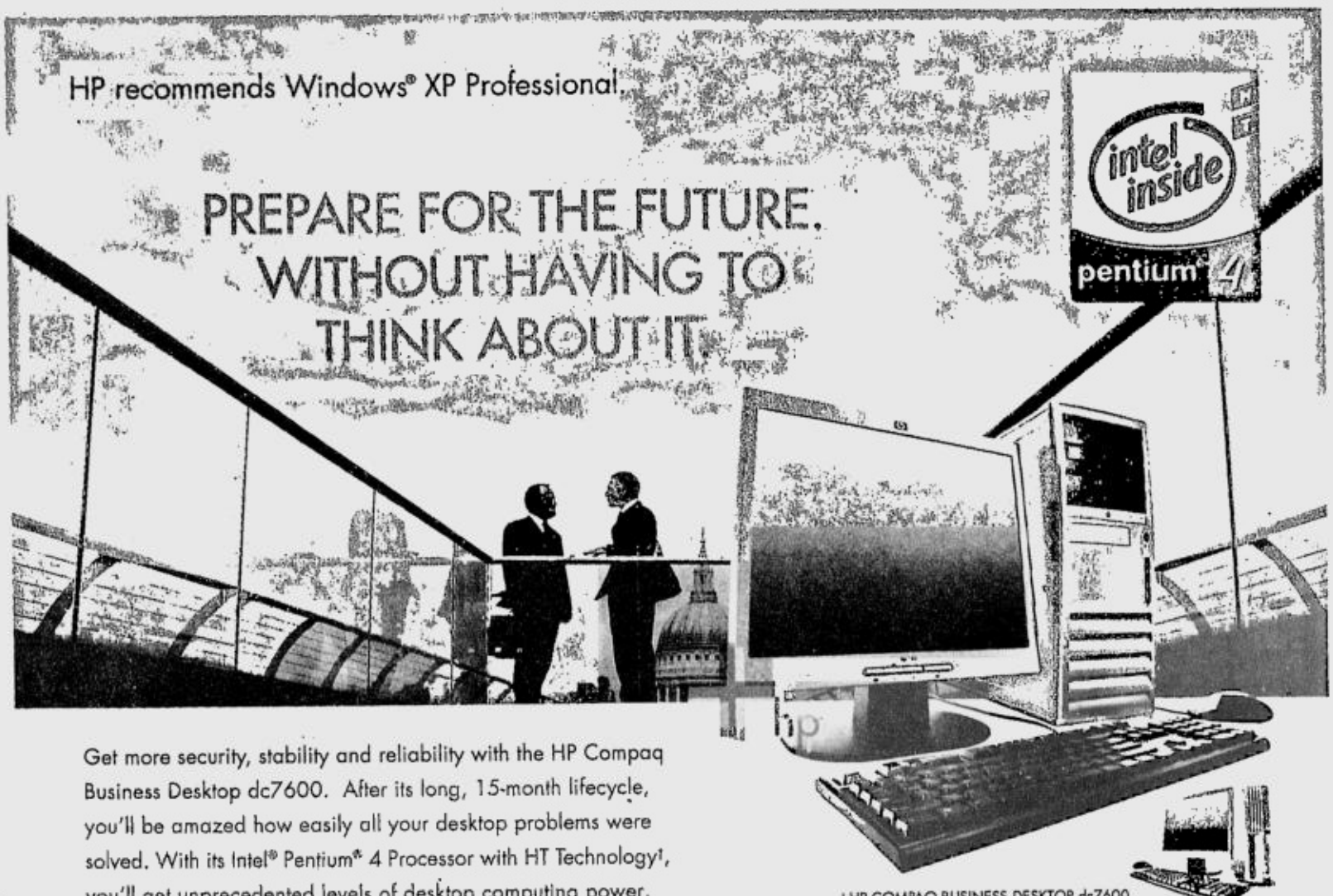

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Bundled with Microsoft Office 2003 Professional, P67,050

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- 533MHz FSB
- Genuine Windows® XP Professional
- Intel® 865GV Chipset
- 256MB PC3200 DDR
- 80GB ATA 7200RPM
- 52X CD-ROM drive
- 1.44MB Floppy Drive
- Integrated audio, including an internal PC speaker
- Intel® Extreme Graphics 2
- Integrated Intel® PRO/100 Network Connection
- PS/2 keyboard and scroll mouse
- Norton AntiVirus 2004
- 3-year parts, 1-year labor, and 1-year on-site service (next business day)
- HP S5502 15" CRT Monitor

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Low bank lending level threatens growth goals

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. welcomes Ibrahim Bagudu Shettima, deputy director of the Central Bank of Nigeria during his recent visit to the Philippines. Shettima's visit was aimed at further developing trade relations between Nigeria and the Philippines. With them are other members of the Nigerian delegation.

By Michelle V. Remo

Falling below benchmark of effective banking sector

SUSTAINED ANEMIC LENDING by the country's banking industry poses a threat to the government's medium-term goal of creating more jobs and achieve economic recovery.

This was the warning raised by investment bank Bear, Stearns Co. Inc., as it noted that the level of bank intermediation in the Philippines fell substantially below the benchmark of an effective banking sector.

Bank intermediation is the ratio of customer loans to deposits, excluding inter-bank lending. Bear, Stearns said the loan-deposit ratio or LDR in the Philippine banking system had been declining steady and that was only 50 percent at present, down from 57 percent in 2004.

"This trend toward a steady decline in the LDR reflects the simple fact that deposits are growing more rapidly than loans. This is bad for economic recovery and job creation in the Philippines," Bear, Stearns said in a paper on its outlook on the Philippine banking system. It said the LDR of an effective banking sector should be 70 to 80 percent.

Bank lending is an important factor in achieving higher economic growth because it encourages investments and job creation.

Under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP), economic growth, in terms of gross domestic product, is projected to rise to 7 percent. Growth in the first half of the year was 4.7 percent.

Bear, Stearns said the growth target would be challenged by the reluctance of banks to increase lending.

Bear, Stearns noted that the level of NPLs and Ropoas (real and other properties owned or acquired) in the country was about 20-25 percent of total loans.

"This is the reason Philippine banks remain averse to—or at least very cautious about—extending new loans," it said.

The level of NPLs and Ropoas was contributory to the less encouraging profit performance of many banks, which was a problem, it said.

Bear, Stearns said Philippine banks' assets as a percentage of GDP was among the lowest in the region. It noted that the total assets of Philippine commercial banks was $72 billion in 2004, $11 billion lower than those of Singapore's United Overseas Bank.

The reluctance of banks to lend more makes them reliant on investing and trading securities which, it said, was risky.

"Heavy reliance on securities trading would damage the banks' profitability in 2005, given that the sharp declines in domestic interest rates over the past years were coming to an end," Bear, Stearns said. It added that interest rates in the United States and other countries, which influence interest rates locally, are already poised to move upward.

The oil cartel

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

I DO NOT MEAN OPEC. I MEAN the cartel of local oil companies.

On the very same hour the other day, Caltex and Shell raised their prices by 50 centavos per liter. My lawyer tells me the move was clearly illegal and unconstitutional.

The constitution says, "Combinations in restraint of trade are not allowed." This props up the penal code's section 186, which says, "The penalty of *prision correccional* in its minimum period or a fine from P200 to P6,000, or both, shall be imposed upon ... any person who shall enter into any contract or agreement or shall take part in any conspiracy or combination in the form of any trust or otherwise, in restraint of trade or commerce or to prevent by artificial means free competition in the market."

"Trust" as used in the penal code is the American word for the European "cartel." Why is cartel or trust bad? Because it is a device used by manufacturers, suppliers, or sellers to prevent competition among themselves. As a result, consumer prices are kept artificially high.

The most common cartel involves an agreement on prices, just as Caltex and Shell have done. Of course, Caltex and Shell can claim that they imported their crude oil from the same source and probably even transported it on the same oil tanker. Hence, they can say, their selling prices are the same.

But the cost of the imported crude is only one component of the pump price. The other major component is the operating costs. These costs cannot be the same for the two companies. And even if these operating costs are the same, this is the area where they can compete to bring down their prices. But when they agree on the price, why should they cut down expenses in the spirit of competition in an open and free market?

The banking cartel runs on a simple rule. The banks agree to charge a minimum rate of interest.

Another common form of cartel involves an agreement on the sharing of the market. For example, if the oil companies here have agreed, as I suspect they have, to maintain their current respective shares of the market, then there is a cartel.

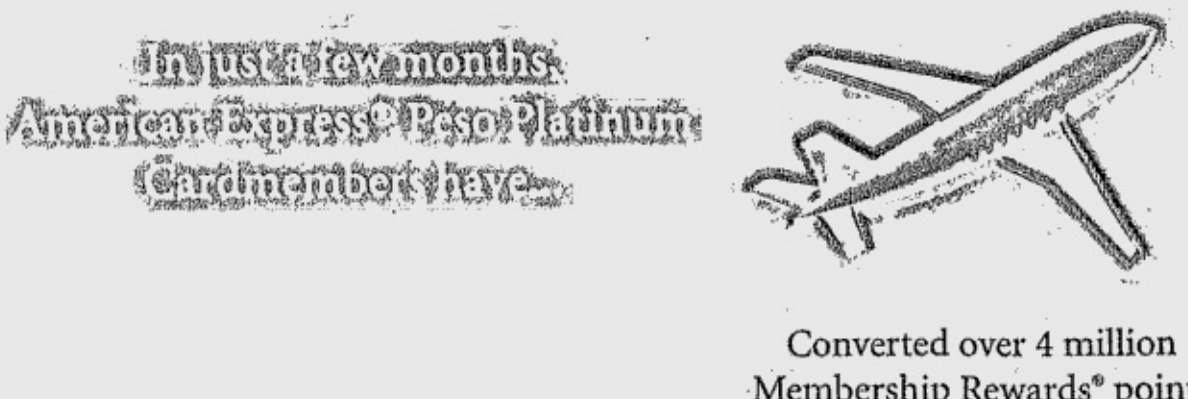
Still another form of cartel involves an agreement to divide the market by geographical area. This is found in the cement industry. A cement plant located in Northern Luzon is given the exclusive right to sell to Ilocandia. A plant located in the South has the exclusive right to sell to Bicolanos.

The age-old reason to justify cartels is the bugaboo that a free and open market leads to ruinous competition. The only ones ruined are those who are so inefficient that they cannot compete. Why should the consumers subsidize such inefficiency?

Let us take the fire insurance industry. For decades, the price of fire insurance was dictated by a cartel. Incredibly, it was the only cartel in our long history that had a government license.

Then, eleven years ago, in line with the Asean free trade agreement, the license was withdrawn and the cartel broken up. Today, the price of fire insurance is about one-fifth what it was 11 years ago. You can scan through thousands and thousands of goods and services for sale, fire insurance is the only thing you can buy more cheaply today than 11 years ago. Yet, the premium

THE OIL/ B9



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Napocor studying options to address ₱9B in receivables

By Abigail L. Ho

DEL CALLAR RYAN LIM

SADDLED WITH P9 BILLION IN RECEIVables from electric cooperatives, National Power Corp. is exploring how the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) law can be used to remedy this problem.

In a discussion with the INQUIRER business staff, Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said the state firm was actually studying all possible financing options at this point.

During a meeting with members of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Philreca) in July, he said he also offered the member-cooperatives a debt-to-equity swap option.

He said the problem with this arrangement, however, was that electric cooperatives were not 'corporatized.'

"I want them to give us something. But will they give shares to Napocor? I'm thinking of how the SPAV law can be used here," he said.

He related that since RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), mandated the condonation of some of the loans of the electric cooperatives, these power distributors would likely have some cash to spare.

Under Section 60 of the Epira, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) had to assume all outstanding financial obligations of electric cooperatives to the National Electrification Administration and other financial institutions, provided that the loans were used to bankroll rural electrification programs.

The ERC, pursuant to Executive Order No. 119, has to evaluate the loans to be condoned to ensure that the electric cooperatives' rates would be reduced in proportion to the savings to be generated from the condonation of their obligations.

Before the ERC could approve an application for condonation, however, PSALM had to first conduct an audit of the applicant to ensure that the obligations it would be absorbing were justified.

Upon Psalm's submission of relevant documents to the ERC, the regulatory body could then do the final assessments before issuing an order and the resulting rate reduction.

Unlike the NEA and other financial institutions, Del Callar said Napocor could not just condone the cooperatives' loans as this would require an act of Congress.

"Some of these debts have been there since the 70s and the 80s. These just keep on accruing over time due to interest charges," he said.

The various financing options that Napocor was considering, he said, while not an outright condonation, would ease the burden of the cooperatives and of Napocor as well.

He said the cooperative with the biggest arrears to Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. was the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, with debts reaching P1.5 billion, to date.

Ayala renews InterCon contract

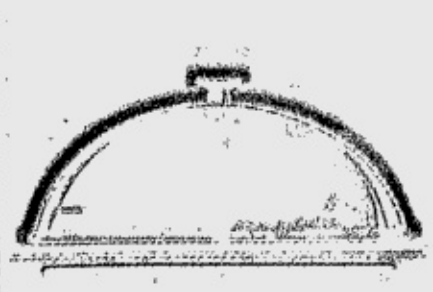
AYALA HOTELS INC. AND INTERCONTINENtal Hotels Group have agreed to renew the management contract of InterContinental Manila in Makati for five more years.

The property, which is owned by Ayala Hotels' wholly-owned subsidiary Enjay Hotels Inc., has been under InterContinental Hotels Group management since it opened in 1969.

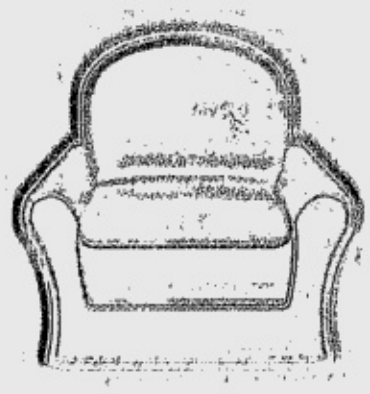
Jan Smits, InterContinental Hotels Group chief operating officer for Southern Asia, said: "We look forward to the extension of our 36-year partnership with Ayala Hotels Inc. to manage InterContinental Manila. This hotel has such an established history in Metro Manila, and the city's residents have a strong attachment to it. As the Philippines continues to see strong growth in both business and tourist arrivals, InterContinental Manila will continue to be ideally positioned to meet the needs of both these markets."

InterContinental Manila will refurbish its facilities and upon completion, it will reinforce its position as one of the city's finest.

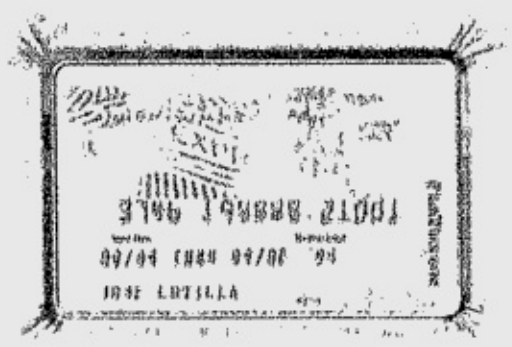
Jaime I. Ayala, president of Ayala Hotels Inc. said: "We are pleased to continue our relationship with InterContinental Hotels Group. They have time and again demonstrated their ability in managing properties that offer exceptional guest experience. We are confident that they will continue to deliver the same high standards as they have in the past."



Enjoyed over Php 30 million in hotel discounts.



Enjoyed over 1,000 relaxing visits to Miascor Lounge at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.



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Questions of Policies

From page B8

volume of the entire insurance industry has soared, as more and more people buy fire insurance. And, profitability has not suffered.

There is something magical about lean prices brought about by intense competition in a free and open market. Everybody wins. The sellers make more because they sell more. The buyers buy more because they pay less.

It seems to me that what the oil regulatory board ought to do is to enforce the penal code on cartels. Put some of the Caltex and Shell executives in *prision correccional*. And we will enjoy watching those gasoline prices come tumbling down.

By the way, if the Anti-Trust Division of the US Department of Justice hears about this cartel, Caltex could be in serious trouble.

In the meantime, a text message is going around to boycott Caltex and Shell. Damn good idea. I have shifted to the Total station near my place. How about you?

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

INFOTECH

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HP takes new 'vertical' view of SMBs in APAC

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

BEIJING, CHINA—HEWLETT Packard has acknowledged recently that it has changed the way it views the small- and medium-sized business segment.

"I don't think we did not really refocus on the SMB segment. We've been in this market for years. But we've changed the way we looked at this market. We're taking a vertical approach, choosing 17 micro-segments to focus on. This is because we don't believe that one-size fits all," said Roger Stocco, HP commercial sales director for Asia Pacific and Japan.

Giving more than 100 media representatives an overview of its strategy to grow its share in the SMB market in Asia Pacific region, HP stressed that the projected information technology spending of SMBs in the region is pushing vendors to rethink their strategies for this market.

Citing a report from International Data Corp., HP said that the Asia Pacific market alone is expected to spend about $26 billion in 2006 in different IT solutions that cover hardware, software and services.

Stocco said that HP will design country- and industry-specific information technology solutions for SMBs in collaboration with independent software vendors and system integrators in the region. But it will not mean the vendor will leave out small businesses who have simple needs.

"Of course, we want to focus on all spectrums. So we really need local expertise to help bring to market IT solutions for SMBs in the Asia Pacific region," the HP executive said.

HP announced to the regional media briefing in Beijing that it has created its own "ecosystem of partnership," dubbed Alliance One. This program will provide a system where HP, independent software vendors and business solution partners can work together and design IT solutions for SMB customers in the region.

There are about 63 million SMB firms in Asia Pacific except Japan.

Stocco said that Alliance One is a six-month-old initiative that will eventually be rolled out throughout the region. This initiative will allow the vendor to tap a network of more than 900 regional and global alliance partners and 100 solutions partners.

This initiative will also help independent software vendors, in particular, to push their customized solutions to the Asia Pacific market under a "go-to-market" strategy.

"What makes our initiative different from other vendors is that they are only talking about a handful of vertical markets. Also, ours is country-specific," the HP executive said.

The 17 micro-vertical markets cover banking, media, construction, financial services, health, insurance, oil and gas, retail, service, transportation and travel, trading, utilities, process manufacturing, discrete manufacturing, government, education, telecommunications, information services and technology.

The computer vendor said that its initiative has already attracted independent software vendors like Bea, Oracle, SAP, Microsoft, QED and Symantec.

Creating digital art without really trying

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

NINA FALCON IS A successful freelance interior designer and events manager in her 30s. Then there's Melvin Orias, a 24-year-old who once thought of becoming a civil engineer but never really got to finish his course. Nina and Melvin are schoolmates in a most unlikely school. They're both taking creative visual design at the First Academy of Computer Arts.

The school, owned by Wilfredo Lao, founder of the former Apple Computer distributor DPSI, gives technical courses on computer graphics design. Located on Buendia Avenue in Makati City, First Academy is one of the few non-college degree schools that provide digital arts using such software as Maya and 3D Studio.

Though the idea is nothing new, First Academy's teaching method—with most of its students already working professionals—is based on the principle that adults would prefer to learn at their own pace.

Falcon said her reasons for enrolling at the First Academy is mainly practical: her work as an interior designer requires her to constantly talk to a graphic designer. Though her sketching skills are laudable, she wanted to do better and begin doing graphic design on her own. Her knowledge of the visual arts is also broad, but she wanted to focus on artistry in her work.

"I couldn't get the results that I wanted and I knew the designs could be better. It was there that I decided that I should start learning a computer to do digital arts. I wanted to upgrade my skills."

Since she began her digital design course six months ago, Falcon has been getting more projects outside her usual field of expertise. She's now doing a brochure project for a German firm, something she never thought would happen.

"It opened new opportunities for me and to think that I'm already successful at what I did before."

Orias' reasons are different. With his experience as a civil engineering student, Orias was limited to learning digital design through AutoCAD, engineering software that creates 3D images of infrastructure plans. But, said Orias, his true passion was to be able to do 3D design.

"I wanted to be part of a 3D design crew for movies. That type of work is extensive but it could prove my skills in the 3D design field."

For four months, Orias labored over while enjoying his 3D animation course at First Academy. He hopes to enter a movie outfit creating 3D animation, the likes of Pixar and Dreamworks SKG.

Despite their hectic schedules, time spent at First Academy was worth every bit of it for both Falcon and Orias.

First Academy Founder Wilfredo Lao says the school has been around for five years, its goal being to provide a new and more cost effective way for Filipinos to expand—perhaps discover—their inclinations toward the visual arts.

"Like in everything related to education, the equipment used are just tools [for] learning. Computer arts is just one of them and learning digital arts shouldn't be made difficult to acquire," Lao said.

Lao said the idea of First Academy is to make their facilities available to working professionals. Most of their courses are only three to six months long; class schedules are adjusted to the students' free time, mostly evenings.

"Our concept is to remove all the nitty-gritty stuff and get students to learn what they're really paying for."

Lao revealed he had a student who once traveled from her home in Dagupan City, Pangasinan to First Academy campus in Makati City and back again, every single day.

"I myself was shocked because she was so driven to learn. She basically slept in the bus half the day and studied in Makati for only a few hours. She did finish her course and now she's teaching in a school in Dagupan, imparting what she learned from here."

At any given time, First Academy has had 100 to 120 students. Plans are underway to open a new campus, but a location has yet to be decided.

"I'm thinking another Makati campus or perhaps in Quezon City," said Lao.

He hopes that First Academy will set a trend for other non-degree schools to follow, especially in the field of digital arts.

"There's a very big demand for digital design artists abroad and Filipinos are always among the first in the list. If given the chance, these artistically-inclined students could start offering services to foreign companies. It's giving value to Filipino talent and making them earn from it and love it at the same time."

Banks' dollar deposits down to $15.7B in Q2

FCDU loans slightly up at $4.62B inJune

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER TWO YEARS OF STRONG growth, foreign currency deposits lodged with Philippine banks fell in the second quarter by $442 million to $15.73 billion from the first quarter level, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the slowdown in the second quarter was due to withdrawals of maturing placements in time deposits and deposits in trust departments of banks.

Residents account for about 93 percent of the banking system's FCDU deposits.

FCDUs, considered as the country's secondary layer of foreign exchange reserves, historically attract more deposits whenever the peso is falling against the US dollar. In that situation, people and enterprises with dollar revenues choose to park their funds in FCDUs, instead of converting them into pesos right away.

In the first quarter, the strong FCDU build-up was supported by higher foreign investment inflows, export revenues and overseas Filipino worker remittances.

Foreign investments started to slow down in the second quarter, compared to the first quarter performance, given the political uncertainties in the country. Inflows from exports and OFW remittances, however, continued to boost foreign exchange supply.

Based on BSP data, the overall loans to deposit ratio dropped from 30.6 percent in the first quarter to 29.8 percent in the second quarter.

Compared to a year ago, the FCDU deposits improved from $14.55 billion but the loan to deposit ratio was down from 35.87 percent, indicating that less funds are being lent out.

Outstanding FCDU loans stood at $4.62 billion at end-June, slightly better than $4.61 billion a quarter ago but lower than $4.8 billion a year ago.

The year-on-year decline in FCDU loans, Tetangco said, was mostly due to net repayments by public sector borrowers.

Outstanding loans to private enterprises at end-June accounted for more than two-thirds of the FCDU portfolio, up from 64 percent a quarter ago.

Exporters and public utility enterprises had combined exposures of more than 41 percent.

For the second quarter alone, about 90 percent of FCDU availment was for trade financing requirements and payable for one year. This increased the percentage share of short-term FCDU loan accounts to 34.2 percent from 29 percent at end-March.

Napocor sales up 45.3%

By Abigail L. Ho

NATIONAL POWER CORP. POSTED A 45.3-percent increase in energy sales revenue to P62.3 billion in the first half from P42.87 billion in the same period last year.

Napocor's sales and services group attributed the revenue growth to the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of the state firm's rate hike petition last April, which resulted in a rate adjustment of 36.25 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

The Luzon grid, although posting a 2.7-percent drop in GWh sales, accounted for the bulk of the first half sales revenue at P50.16 billion, a 44.6-percent jump from last year's P34.68 billion.

The Mindanao grid raked in P7.55 billion, rising 80.1 percent from the P4.19 billion posted the year before. The Visayas grid contributed P6.67 billion, up 20.5 percent from 2004's P5.54 billion.

Napocor's total energy sales in the first half reached 17,105.42 GWh, down 1 percent from year-ago's 17,884.04 GWh.

Sales to the Luzon grid dropped 2.7 percent to 11,218.42 GWh in the first semester from 11,503.04 GWh last year.

The slight decline was attributed to lower sales to the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., which accounted for around 70 percent of the state firm's sales in the Luzon grid and half of total sales nationwide.

In the first six months of the year, Meralco purchased only 7,069.00 GWh from Napocor, down 5.4 percent from the 7,468.42 GWh it bought in the same period last year.

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Auction of coal supply deals worth ₱5.3B set

NATIONAL POWER CORP. will bid out P5.3 billion worth of coal contracts to supply the 2006 requirements of two power plants being operated by Mirant Philippines Corp.

The first batch, a spot contract for 325,000 metric tons (MT) of regular coal, will be for the 1,000-megawatt (MW) Sual power plant in Pangasinan. This contract, with an approved budget of P1.5 billion, will be auctioned off on Nov. 21.

Also to be auctioned off on the same day is a three-year contract worth P1.2 billion for the 700-MW Pagbilao power plant in Quezon.

The required shipment for yearly for the three-year period was set at 260,000 MT.

Napocor will also be securing two more coal shipments for the Pagbilao plant, both under spot contracts worth P1.3 billion for each 325,000-MT shipment. One contract is for performance or high quality coal and the other is for blending low-sulfur coal.

Bidding for these two contracts will be on Nov. 22.

In a published invitation to bid, Napocor senior vice president and bids and awards committee chair Silvano Zanoria said open competitive bidding procedures would be used for the contracts, using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria.

Only firms with at least 60-percent Filipino ownership will be allowed to bid. Exemptions will be given to foreign firms from countries that grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens.Eligibility documents have to be submitted on or before Nov. 14 for evaluation.

By 2006, Napocor vice president for logistics Juan Carlos Guadarrama said coal-fired power plants would account for 25.3 percent of the state firm's generation mix at 15,307.8 gigawatt-hours (GWh).

This year, coal-fired plants are expected to contribute 15,307 GWh, or 26 percent of gross generation. *Abigail L. Ho*

PAP vows support for gov't indigenous energy projects

THE PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (PAP) has assured the government that it would continue supporting the Department of Energy (DOE) in its efforts to develop indigenous energy sources amid the unabated rise in world crude prices.

In a speech during the organization's membership meeting, PAP chair Alfredo Ramos said PAP members had always been a close partner of the government in its efforts to nurture the upstream petroleum sector.

"This unique group of companies engaged in the high risk business of petroleum exploration has persisted in searching for oil here in the Philippines even during times of extreme fiscal difficulty," Ramos said. He added that the close collaboration between the government and industry players over the years have allowed the development of the oil exploration industry despite the huge investment required for this undertaking.

Total investments poured into oil exploration in the country had been estimated at over $2 billion. At least two oil and gas fields are currently being developed while other areas are being explored for possible discoveries.

Newest call center opens

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo will officiate today the formal opening of WinSource Solutions Ltd., where about 2,000 new jobs are needed for its 24/7 operations.

Determined to reach her target of six million jobs before her term ends in 2010, the President has been encouraging the establishment of call centers, hoping to turn the country into the business process outsourcing hub of Asia.

The executive and servicing offices of WinSource Solutions Ltd. are located at the new Robinsons Cybergate Tower I, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Trade Secretary Peter Favila, David Mabey of the UK-based Mabey Group of Companies, and other officials of government and the call center industry are expected to join Ms Arroyo in today's inauguration.

Jojo Uligan, executive director of Contact Center Association of the Philippines, will also be among the guests from the call center industry. Officials and employees of Winsource Solutions led by its managing director, Grant Butsumyo, will be on hand to welcome the President.

CMMA holds 27th Awards Ceremonies

Awards night and telecast feature media and showbiz stars

TV Personalities Christine Jacob and TJ Manotoc play main hosts to this year's Catholic Mass Media Awards ceremonies.

A diverse array of presentors from media, the bishops and the clergy will hand over the various trophies and special citations to the winners in 55 different categories selected from 795 entries.

Entertainment numbers will be provided by showbiz stars including Jaya, Jamie Rivera, Jolina Magdangal, Jay R, Kyla, Karylle, Sheryn Regis, Iya Villania, Mark Bautista, Jed Madela, Jonalyn Viray, Brenan, Frenchy Dy, Jerome Sala and the UP Choir.

This year's overall director is Mark Reyes with Mel Villena as Musical Director and Christine Blando as choreographer. Production management is provided by Gina Borinaga, Lorna Feliciano and Rowie Valencia.

The Awards Night will be telecast on IBC-13 at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 29.

2005 CMMA Finalists

STUDENT CMMA

Best Student Organ–Grade School
The Junior Ridge *by Paref–Southridge School*, Stout Herald *by Chiang Kai Shek College*, Paet-Edisyong Filipino & Paet-English Edition *by Paete Elementary School-Laguna*, The Eaglet *by Ateneo de Manila-Grade School*, Centreglipiks *by Carmona Elementary School–Cavite*, The Greenery *by La Salle Greenhills*, Tilamsik ng Diwa *by La Salle Greenhills, and* Hoofprint *by Xavier School.*

Best Student Organ - High School
The Clarion by Tanza National Comprehensive School–Cavite, *Ang Bakulo* by St. Augustine School–Cavite, *The Lathe* by Batangas State University, *The Mover* Southville International School and College, *Stallion* by Xavier School, and *ICAletter* by Immaculate Conception Academy.

Best Student Organ - College
Internos by UST Faculty of Sacred Theology, *The Lathe Newsletter* by Batangas State University, *Lavoxa & L. Magazine* by De La Salle Lipa, *Phoenix Broadsheet* and *Phoenix Magazine* by Lyceum of Batangas. *The Lance* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran, *Dapitan* and *The Owl* by University of Santo Tomas, *The Varsitarian* by UST Faculty of Civil Law, *The Lead* by University of St. La Salle Mass Comm–Bacolod & *The Spectrum* by University of St. La Salle–Bacolod.

Best Public Service Print Ad
Jungle Bills and *Feels Like Hell* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

Best Public Service Radio Ad
Bounce, Orasyon, Bleep, Ligaya and *Tape* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

Best Public Service TV Ad
Bahid, Solusyon & Yapak by Lyceum of the Philippines, *Sana, Magic, Break na Tayo & Faith Lifting* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran and *Ina-Bandona* by St. Paul University,QC.

Best Short Film
Guardias by Polytechnic University of the Philippines, *Hanapbata* by St. Paul University QC, and *Asyenda & Cadabers in Abuse* by Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

Best TV Production
Klasrum by St. Paul, QC, *Buhay Pagkatapos ng Unos* by Colegio de San Juan de Letran, *Carlos "Botong" Francisco, Amang Walang Pahinga & Quo Vadis* by St. Paul University, Quezon City, *Kapit sa Patalim* by University of the East and *Women of Pax* by St. Scholastica's College.

PRINT

Best Investigative Report
Filipinos Making Headway in ICT Adoption by Alma J. Buelva of The Phil. Star, *Abortion During Chemotherapy. An Ethical Question* by Resty Maglalang of The Big C, *Sa Mga Bundok at Gubat sa Kinalbo Nakikitil ang Buhay ng mga Pilipino* by Clemen M. Bautista of Liwaywny Publishing Inc., and *The Assassins of Abra* by Artha Kira Paredes & *To Die For* by Volt Contreras, Luige A. Del Puerto & Christian V. Esguerra of The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Short Story
Amada by Rowena Angeles & *Ang Panalangin ni Tan* by Jericho Natividad of Gospel Komiks Magazine, *Salamat Anak* by Joscylen V. De Leon of Jesus Magazine, *Ang Pondo ng Pinoy at ang Pondo ni Tinoy* by Renato C. Vibiesca of Baby Jesus Magazine and *Ang Bangkang Papel ni Paulo* by Nicodemus Melgar of AIDS Society of the Phils.

Best Sports Column
Sporting Chance by Joaquin M. Henson of The Philippine Star.

Best Local Community /Parish Newspaper
Tulay Fortnightly Chinese Filipino Digest by Kausa Para sa Kaunlaran, *The Bascomian Forum* by Don Bosco Technical College and *Pasa'Yo News Plus* by Stratcomm Inc.

Best Business Column
Digital Life by Chin Wong of Manila Standard Today, *Business Friday–Creating Great Brands by Caring for People First* by Karen de Asis, *Marketing RX* by Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto & *No Free Lunch* by Cielito F. Habito of Philippine Daily Inquirer, and *Self-Reliance and Economic Strength Lesson from the Angelo dela Cruz Story/Affair* by Wilson Lee Flores & *Commonness* by Bong Osorio by The Philippine Star.

Best Opinion Column
Commonness by Bong Osorio & *Hope and Childhood Memories in a Sawmill* by Wilson Lee Flores of The Philippine Star, *Ecclesia in Asia* by Msgr. Sabino A. Vengco, Jr. of The Manila Times, *Gems Of History* by Go Bon Juan of Tulay Fortnightly, *Pinoy Kasi* by Michael L. Tan of Philippine Daily Inquirer and *On the Spot!* by Atty. Jobert Peñaflorida of Sun-Star Iloilo.

Best Comic Strip
Love Knots by Elizabeth Chionglo, *Divine Comedy* by Steven Pabalinas & *Pugad Baboy* by Pol Medina Jr. of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best News Coverage
Filipinos Making Headway in ICT Adaption by Alma J. Buelva of The Philippine Star, *Casinos: Off Limits* by Teresita Ang See & Tulay Staff and *Cover* by Meah See, Teresita Ang See & Andrea Tan by Tulay Fortnightly, *Errors in Textbooks* by Dona Pazzibugan, Cynthia Baluna & Luige A. Del Puerto, *Corruption in AFP* by Alcuin Papa, Christine Avendano & Gil Cabacungan and *Medical Brain Drain* by Blanche Rivera & Tina Arceo-Dumlao of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Special Feature
The Church Response to the Clergy Crisis Today by Bishop Luis Tagle, D.D., *The First Time I Loved Forever* by Sr. Lydia Collado, RSCJ and *From Womb to Tomb* of Rogate Ergo Asia, *Yesu Tam Nganin* by Roberto Canmu Caballero by *Piat Legacy* and *The Last Word from John Paul II The Great* by Lito B. Zulueta of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Entertainment Column
I Am a Child by Marita F. Villafuerte of Baby Magazine, *Maria Kennedy Shriver–The Governator's Secret Weapon* by Wilson Lee Flores of The Philippine Star and *Viewfinder* by Nestor U. Torre of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Children's Magazine
Baby Magazine by Marathon Publishing Co., Inc., *JC.Kom* by Foundation for Christ Love-Asia, *Jesus Magazine, Gospel Komiks Magazine for Young People and Baby Jesus Magazine* by CFA.

Best News Photograph
Save a Prayer by Sonny M. Espiritu of Manila Standard, *Ella Mae (Rescue)* by Rem Zamora, *Sea Traders* by Edwin Bacasmas, *Noodles* by Erik Arazas, *Footnote to Disaster* by Roger Margallo and *Waiting for Deliverance* by Rem Zamora of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Best Youth Magazine
Word & Life Magazine by Word & Life Publications and *Crossroads Magazine* by CMN Asia/Rex Publishing.

Best Editorial Cartoon
Opinion/Editorial by Dario B. Noche of Manila Standard, *Values Education, The Boob Tube* and *RP's Dwindling Forest* by Gilbert Daroy of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

ADVERTISING

Best Public Service Print Ad
Pondo ng Pinoy "Pencil" of Caritas Manila by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, *"Trees" Advocacy Campaign* of Haribon Foundation by Campaigns & Grey, *Candaba Swamp & Wildlife* by Kaakbay CDI & Candaba, Pampanga LGU, *The Many Faces of the Teacher* of Diwa Learning Systems by Mavcomm/CAPRI, *Blood Donation–Rose* of National Kidney Transplant Institute/McCann Erickson by Harrison Communications and *Fish* of Mindanao Commission on Women by TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno.

Best Branded Print Ad
Recharge of Addict Mobile by Foote Cone & Belding, *Lent* of PLDT by DDB Philippines, *Directory* of PLDT by DDB Philippines, *Bayanihan: The Power that Flows in Every Filipino's Blood* by Mirant Phils. Corp., *Easter Sunday, Black Saturday, Good Friday* of Samsung by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno.

Best Public Service Outdoor Ad
Womb of Teodora by DDB Philippines, *Blood Donation–Rose* of National Kidney Transplant Institute/McCann Erickson by Harrison Communications, *Miko* of Eyebank Foundation by TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno and *Ad Space for Bantay Bata* "Make a Difference" of ABS-CBN Bantay Bata 163 by Ad & Promo Management.

Best Branded Outdoor Ad
Nature of Cottonwoods by Espresso Design and *Bunso* by Don Bosco Technical College.

Best Public Service TV Ad
Hope of Jollibee by Jimenez Basic Advertising, *Brigada Eskwela* of Department of Education by GV Productions, *Pondo ng Pinoy "Better Place"* of Caritas Manila by Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, *Children's Hour "Standee"* of Ayala Foundation by McCann Erickson, *Kapalaran* by McCann Erickson, *Trees* of Haribon Foundation by GMA Network Inc. and *Abutin Mo* of Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas by Shining Light Foundation.

Best Branded TV Ad
Bayan of Caltex Philippines by DYR-Alcantara, *Cellphone/Bully/Graffiti* of Jollibee by McCann Erickson, *Daan Pauwi* of Meralco by Publicis-Manila, *Emilio & Cherry* of Philippine Savings Bank by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno and *Happy Xmas* of Happee Toothpaste by Campaigns & Grey.

Best Public Service Radio Ad
Name Calling of Phil. Cerebral Palsy by Jimenez Basic Advertising, *Si Lolo at ang Kanyang Apo* by Haribon Foundation, *Ang Pangarap ng Anak* by Haribon Foundation, *TSK!TSK!* of Hands on Manila by TBWA/ Santiago Mangada Puno and *Names* of Haribon Foundation by Campaigns & Grey.

Best Branded Radio Ad
Bunyag of Homi by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, Littany of Petron by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi and *NBS Corporate* of National Bookstore by Creative Source.

RADIO

Best Entertainment Program
The RX Concert Series & Back to the Eighties by Monster RX 93.1, *Sining Galaw* by DZRM, *RT Sunday Session* by 99.5 RT, and *Magic 89.9 & Early Returns Year End Award* by Magic 89.9.

Best News Commentary
Todo Bulita, Magundang Morning w/ Julius & Tintin and *Tambalang Failon at Sanchez* by DZMM, *Saksi sa Dobol B* by DZBB, *News Center Bulita* by DZRH, *Ngayon na Bayan* by DZRJ and *DZXL Express* by DZXL RMN Manila.

Best Special Event Coverage
Super Radyo-DZBB Typhoon Coverage, Super Radyo–DZBB Burial of Pope John Paul II, Super Radyo–Burial of FPJ and Super Radyo–Bicutan Seige by DZBB.

Best Business News or Feature
Dumbana by DZRB Radyo ng Bayan, *Deretsong Impormasyon at Kasiyahan* by PBS-DZRM, *Sikap Pinoy (Sikap at Tiyaga) & Radyo Negosyo* by DZMM and *Ikaw at ang Landbank* by RMN.

Best Drama Program
The Love Clinic by Monster Radio Rx93.1, *Maalaala Mo Kaya sa DZMM & Radio Drama Theatre* by DZMM, *Mom's Vineyard–Passover to Gethsemane* by SBN-Mom's Radio Lacag, *Mom's Vineyard-Different Stories About God's Kingdom* by SBN-Mom's Radio Cagayan de Oro and *Mom's Vineyard-The Two Tablets* by SBN-Mom's Radio Davao.

Best Educational Program
Lakbay Buhay–House Bill 3773 Ligtas Buntis by Radio Veritas, Gabay Kalusugan by DZMM, *Mom's Morning Chat-Health from A-Z* by SBN-Mom's Radio Bacolod, *Mom's Morning Chat-Empowered Mom* by SBN-Mom's Radio Cagayan de Oro, *Mom's Morning Chat-Mom's Kitchen* by SBN-Mom's Radio Davao and *Mom's Morning Chat-Health from A-Z* by SBN-Mom's Radio Laoag.

Best News Program
Super Balita sa Umaga and *Super Balita sa Hapon* by DZBB, *Balitang Bayan Numero Uno–Typhoon 2005* by DZRH, *Radyo Patrol Balita* by DYAB Cebu and *RMN News Nationwide* by DZXL RMN Manila.

Best Counseling & Public Service Program
Afternoon Chat Specials-Mama Says Papa Says by SBN-Moms Radio Cagayan de Oro, *Afternoon Chat Specials-The Doctor Is In* by SBN-Mom's Radio Bacolod, *Operation Tulong Tata Pedro* by DZRH, *Barangay 1296* by DXAB 1296 Davao and *Kapitan del Barrio* by DZXL RMN Manila.

INTERNET

Best Website
www.apeaen.org by E-mage Nation, *www.innerbeautysecrets.com* by Springs Foun., *www.xs.edu.ph* by Xavier School, *haribon.org.ph* by Haribon Foun., *genrev.net* by Genrev Student Network and *www.prolife.org.ph* by Pro-Life Phil. Foun.

TELEVISION

Best News Program
The World Tonight by ANC 21, *Saksi-Liga ng Katotohanan & 24 Oras* by GMA 7, *News Central* by Studio 23, *TV Patrol World* by ABS-CBN 2, *TV Patrol Northern Mindanao* by ABS-CBN Cagayan de Oro, *TV Patrol Dumaguete* by ABS-CBN TV-12 Dumaguete and *TV Patrol Central Visayas* by ABS-CBN TV 3 Cebu.

Best Comedy Program
Idol ko si Kap & Daddy Di Do Du by GMA 7, and *Goin' Bulilit, Quizon Avenue, & Ok Fine! 'Tong Gusto Nyo!* by ABS-CBN 2.

Best Sports Show
NCAA-Nestle Non-Stop Cheering Competition and *Sports Unlimited* by ABS-CBN.

Best Entertainment Program
Extra Challenge by GMA 7, *Game Ka Na Ba* and *Wowowee* by ABS-CBN 2.

Best Talk Show
Straight Talk, On Line, Talkback, Private Conversations with Boy Abunda and *Kumusta Kabayan* by ANC 21, *Lukso ng Dugo, Home Boy* and *Kumikitang Kabuhayan* by ABS-CBN 2, *Breakfast Superstar* by Studio 23 and *Mel & Joey* by GMA 7.

Best Business News/ Feature
ANC Money & Interstitials by ANC 21 and *Entrepinoy* by IBC-13.

Best Adult Educational/ Cultural Program
Huling Habilin and *Huling Salita* by Jesuit Communications, *Inner Beauty* by Springs Foundation, *Ecclesia in Asia-Ang Pagdiriwang ng Eukaristiya* by Kadiwa sa Pagkapari Foundation, *Pinoy Abroad* by GMA 7, *Biyaheng Langit* by Hip TV/RPN 9, *Field Trip* by ABC 5, *Notre Dame of Jolo College 50th Founding Anniversary* by ABS-CBN TV 3 Zamboanga and *Good Take* by IBC-13.

Best Children's Program
Lovely Day and *Art Angel* by GMA 7, *Kabataan News Network* by ABC 5 and *Art Jam* by ABS-CBN 2.

Best Special Event Coverage
John Paul II–We Love You by GMA 7, *Ryan Cayabyab, The Musicman at 50* by ABS-CBN 2, *Simulog 2005* by ABS-CBN TV 3 Cebu, *2005 Kalibo Sto. Niño Ati-Atihan & 2004 Roxas Sinadya sa Halaran* by ABS-CBN, *Misteryo ng Lucban-Pahiyas Festival 2004* by ABS-CBN TV 11 Naga, *The National Catholic Family Quiz* by World Impact, and *Pope John Paul II, Amen* and *Dateline: Banda Ache* by ABC 5.

Best News Magazine
I-Witness: The GMA Documentaries (Abakada ni Inay), Imbestigador, Reporter's Notebook & Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho by GMA 7, *Kasangga Mo ang Langit* by Hip TV/ RPN 9, *Special Assignment, Pipol & Rated K* by ABS-CBN 2.

Best Drama Series/ Program
It Might Be You & SCQ Reload Ok Ako by ABS-CBN 2, *For Life* by ABS-CBN TV 3 Cebu, and *Sa Kamay ng Diyos, Mulawin & Magpakatlanman* by GMA 7.

Best Public Service Program
Ecclesia in Asia–Ang Eukaristiya at ang Kalbaryo by Kadiwa sa Pagkapari Foundation, *At Your Service, Imbestigador, Wish Ko Lang* and *Emergency* by GMA 7, *Kasangga mo ang Langit* by Hip TV/RPN 9, *Salamat Dok* by ABS-CBN 2, *Bantay Bata 163* by ANC 21 and *Serbis on the Go* by IBC 13.

MUSIC

Best Music Video
Sumeon's Canticle by Jesuit Comm. Foun., *Brigada Eskwela* Dept. of Educ., *Purpose Driven Life* by Star Records, *Sabay Tayo Christmas SID* by ABS-CBN, *Pope MTV* by ABS-CBN Star Records, *Sabay Tayo, Pilipinas* by ABS-CBN Regional Network Group and *ABS-CBN 2005 Summer SID* by ABS-CBN.

Best Album – Secular
Gary V. Soul Full by Universal Records and *Reaching Destination* by Nerisa Del Carmen Guevara.

Best Album – Religious
The Joys of Healing by Star Records, *Hangad Easter Journey* by Jesuit Communications Foundation, *Maria* by Springs Foundation and *The Purpose Driven Life* by Star Records.

CINEMA

Best Picture
Mansan Pa by MLR Films and *Santa Santita* by Unitel Pictures.

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THE CATHOLIC MASS MEDIA AWARDS

Vice President Noli "Kabayan" De Castro heads this year's guests and awardees during the 27th Catholic Mass Media Awards ceremonies starting at 4 o'clock this afternoon at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Theme for this year focuses on the message of Pope John Paul II at the 2004 World Communications Day–"The Communications Media: At The Service Of Understanding Among Peoples."

The late Pontiff personally awarded the trophies to the winners when the awards were first given out in 1978 in observance of International Social Communications Day.

CMMA Honorary Chairman, Archbishop Gaudencio D. Rosales exhorts media to perform its task–"information and education towards providing understanding dispelling prejudice and bringing out unity and harmony among peoples."

For his part, Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, Chairman and President, stresses CMMA's role in maintaining the high standards of mass media and providing social and national stability.

Elevated to the Hall of Fame as Best Student Organ High School category is THE RIDGE, Paref-Southridge School for having won the award for four years.

Last year, the Board of Trustees conceived the SERVIAM awards as a tribute to the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, CMMA founder and moving spirit to recognize institutions and individuals who made outstanding contributions to the Church and the country.

This year's SERVIAM awardees are led by Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. and Knowledge Channnel Foundation. Special citations will be presented to Haribon Foundation, the late Reyster Langit and to Gil G. Chua/DDB Philippines.

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FF Studio Garden Hts Condo E. Rodriguez Ave. Near St. Lukes T819-0708

APARTMENT

77F Stanford Cubao Near Gateway U/D 2BR 1TB Share Car Space 9124605, 9124284

MANILA

2Bdr Grg 5635296•5610197

MARIKINA

NEW 1BR APT.NR STA.LUCIA & ROBINSON 646-0501 / 682-5021

PARANAQUE

2LRG BR 3TB GARAGE NEW PAINT NO WATER PROBLEM P6500 MONTHLY CALL 8256072

QUEZON CITY

2br w/KitTB pkng nr UP Clarot QC Hall Tel 9218084/86 Leny

SAN JUAN

P4T Semi Furn Stud 7207310

ROOM & BOARD

Only P200t Daily, Wklyill Sucat, Paranaque 8267524

P150t Manila 7836781 Daily, Wkly 09228321888

BUSINESS RENTAL

AVENIDA nr. RAON
2/F 340m² Fit Hotel, Spa, KTV; 150m² Bank, Apincos 735-6516

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol HotSpring p/v 5T 7767607

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
GENERAL MANAGER
FOR
Basilan Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(BASELCO)
Isabela City, Basilan

Qualifications:
- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Basilan.

Starting Salary : P 30,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 07 November 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
NEEDED IMMEDIATELY
GENERAL MANAGER
FOR
Leyte III Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(LEYECO III)
Tunga, Leyte

Qualifications:
- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family Tunga, Leyte.

Starting Salary : P 30,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 07 November 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500
LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197 0918-3227429

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Ground Flr units pper Floor units for lease along Edsa GOOD TERMS & RATES Ask Jhoan 724-5940

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2Bedroom 114 sqm
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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

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HONDA

02 CRV PRICE 685TH T-8990215

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OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Largo Safari Surf Delica RVR Estima Serena Fargo Town-Lite Ace Elf etc T-in Finance 7127539

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Affordable Rent a Car Illoco, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518087

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CAR T-8990215

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ABC OPEN 24 HRS.
HI-ACE•STAREX•CRV L300•URVAN•REVO
NEW CARS/SUV/4X4/BUSES
MLA:536-8822•303-9709
Q.C.:426-2276•426-4084

CAR LOAN

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1% AUTOLOAN 786-0361

1% Car Lending 656-0140
United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% ABC Car Line 5221601

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7889183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

MINPIN w/Papers Vac/Doc M/F 2months 0920-9105014

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUIS J. LAREZA and BELLA G. LAREZA has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs with an extrajudicial settlement with quitclaim as per Doc No 353, Page 69, Book V , series of 2005 before notary public Atty. Armando G. Quinto of Quezon City.
(PDI-Oct. 10, 17, & 24 2005)

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late Teodora D. Garcia has been extrajudicially settled by her legal heirs under Doc. No. 437; Page 88; Book No. VIII; Series of 2005 of Notary Public Dr. Jose Teodorico V. Molina of Quezon City. (PDI Oct. 10,17 & 24, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Ayala Preferred B Shares Cert. No. 2984-100,000 shares issued on 04 /24/97 under Natividad N. Alimurung were declared lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Oct. 17, 24 & 3 1 , 2 0 0 5)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

"LOOKING FOR A PART TIME BUSINESS" Earn up to P20k/mo 376-2644 & 42

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

•ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN• Minimum 3yrs exp on TV, DVD, Radio. Knowledge of Computer Repair is an advantage Very Good Salary Package. Willing to work outside Metro Mla Call 09155708677

TAXI DRIVER - WANTED
853-6344/09217114238

FEMALE

Rushi Tourism Grad 9263045 •4330096•09189238754

Sales Secretary 887-7000

MALE/FEMALE

Earn DOLLARS being a BUSINESS EXECUTIVE. College Graduate 0 0 1 9 8 0 5 0 8 9 0

FILM CREW willing to under OJT w/allowance. ACTORS / ACTRESS bet. 18-65 yrs old email:clancher@earthlink.net Cell No. 0917-8170949

High Quality salesman to sell executive job placements, Php 18,000 plus commission. Fax resume' to Mr. Ruiz at 890-6296

Masseur/Masseus 914-1057

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AMADEO JAVATE GALLARDO JR has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per doc no 60 page no 12,book no 122 series of 2005 before Notary Public Daniel Balmoba of Quezon City

(PDI-Oct. 10,17,24,2005)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGINO OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990. ppavis@globelines.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office – Visayas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A.

Name of Contract	Port Development/Improvement
Location	Port of Basuo, Ivisan, Capiz
Brief Description	Reclamation, Concrete Pavement & Stairlanding
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 8,869,687.93
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	One Hundred Five (105) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Small B "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 1 unit Road Grader (125 hp)
2) 1 unit Road Roller (Vibratory 10.0T)
3) 1 unit Bar Cutter
4) 2 units Concrete Vibrator
5) 1 unit Dump Truck (10.0 cu.m.)
6) 1 unit Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.)
7) 2 units One Bagger Concrete Mixer

B:

Name of Contract	Dredging of the Port of Baybay
Location	Port of Baybay, Leyte
Brief Description	Dredging (Volume = 80,000.00 CU.M.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 15,493,507.99
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Ninety Three (93) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Medium A "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically operated Crane 60T cap., 3.0 cu.m. grab bucket capacity;
2) 3 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800 T; 300 cu.m. net capacity;
3) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP;
4) 1 units EDM;
5) 1 unit Echosounder
6) 2 units Theodolite

C:

Name of Contract	Dredging at the Port of Bato
Location	Port of Bato, Bato, Leyte
Brief Description	Dredging (Volume = 20,000.00 cu.m.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 4,040,957.82
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Twenty Three (23) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Small B "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically operated Crane 60T cap., 3.0 cu.m. grab bucket capacity;
2) 2 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T; 300 cu.m. net capacity;
3) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP;
4) 1 unit EDM;
5) 1 unit Echosounder
6) 2 units Theodolite

D:

Name of Contract	Dredging at the Port of Hilongos
Location	Port of Hilongos, Leyte
Brief Description	Dredging (Volume = 20,000.00 cu.m.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 4,040,957.82
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Twenty Three (23) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Small "B" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically opened Crane 60T cap., 3.0 cu.m. grab bucket capacity;
2) 2 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T; 300 cu.m. net capacity;
3) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP;
4) 1 unit EDM;
5) 1 unit Echosounder
6) 2 units Theodolite

E:

Name of Contract	Dredging at the Calbayog
Location	Port of Calbayog, Samar
Brief Description	Dredging Volume = 70,000.00 cu.m.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 13,803,782.37
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Eighty Three (83) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Medium A "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

7) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically operated Crane 60T cap., 3.0 cu.m. grab bucket capacity
8) 3 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T, 300 cu.m. net capacity;
9) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP;
10) 1 unit EDM;
11) 1 unit Echosounder
12) 2 units Theodolite

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 31 – November 7, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 31 – November 7, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	November 7 – 14, 2005
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	November 25, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 29, 2005
6.	Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2005
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 12, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Sergio Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. SARAH R. MUARES
BAC Chairman

(PDI - October 18 & 24, 2005)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE

5th Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 6366542, 633-93-43
Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph; Email: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BID)

The Department Of Education Division Office, through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	:	**Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs**
LOCATION	:	Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	:	Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2004) Lot B: Secondary Armchairs (CY2004) Lot C: Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2005) Lot D: Secondary Armchairs (CY2005)
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE	:	Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), CY2004 and CY2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% Allocation)
CONTRACT DURATION	:	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES	:	"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Doped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Armchairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Armchairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION III		1,160	1,392,000.00	—	—	2,060	2,472,000.00	—	—
1 BATAAN	Balanga, Bataan	1,160	1,392,000.00	—	—	2,060	2,472,000.00	—	—
REGION IV-A		3,505	4,207,200.00	4,146	2,280,300.00	7,762	9,338,400.00	12,336	6,784,800.00
1 QUEZON	Tayabas, Pagbilao, Quezon	3,505	4,207,200.00	4,146	2,280,300.00	7,762	9,338,400.00	12,336	6,784,800.00
REGION VI		1,125	1,350,000.00	—	—	353	423,600.00	2,743	1,508,650.00
1 BACOLOD CITY	Bacolod City, Negr. Occ.	1,125	1,350,000.00	—	—	353	423,600.00	2,743	1,508,650.00
REGION XI		2,220	2,664,000.00	5,210	2,865,500.00	3,628	4,353,600.00	7,092	3,900,600.00
1 DAVAO CITY	Davao City	2,220	2,664,000.00	5,210	2,865,500.00	3,628	4,353,600.00	7,092	3,900,600.00
CORDILLERA ADMIN. REG. (CAR)		360	432,000.00	354	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1,477	812,350.00
1 ABRA	Bangued, Abra	360	432,000.00	354	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1,477	812,350.00
2 APAYAO	Kabugao, Apayao	151	181,200.00		—	650	780,000.00		—
3 BAGUIO CITY	Baguio City	272	326,400.00	1,063	595,650.00	615	738,000.00		—
4 IFUGAO	Lagawe, Ifugao	310	372,000.00	400	220,000.00	557	668,400.00	1,219	670,450.00
5 KALINGA	Tabuk, Kalinga	625	750,000.00	864	475,200.00	1,200	1,440,000.00	1,005	552,750.00
GRAND TOTAL		9,050	10,860,000.00	10,884	5,985,525.00	15,774	18,920,800.00	24,760	13,818,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The **DepED Division Office** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **November 09, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Office.**

Bids must be received on or before **November 22, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of not more than **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Date of Publication : October 24 & 31, 2005
Newspaper : Philippine Daily Inquirer

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4925; Fax No. 841-4927; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph
E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

NOTICE OF CONDUCT OF PUBLIC BIDDING

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders/contractors to a Public Bidding for the Document Imaging of PDIC Records. Relevant information and schedule of events are presented below:

Particulars	
Source of Funding	2005 Budget
Approved Budget	P4,500,000.00 at P1.35 per sheet/page
Duration	Six (6) months
Minimum Requirements	Bidder must have at least three (3) years experience in the business and at least 2 successful implementations for scanning services and solutions. Bidder must have appropriate and adequate scanning facilities capable of scanning at least 35,000 sheets/ pages per day (8 hrs) Bidder must have an identified Document Management and Document tracking solutions that will work with the scanned/imaged documents
Availability of Instructions to Bidders	Starting October 14, 2005 (Friday) 8:00am - 5:00pm 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue cor. Rufino St., Makati City
Pre-Bid Conference	October 28, 2005 (Friday), 10:30 A.M. 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue cor. Rufino St., Makati City
Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Proposals; opening of said proposals shall follow immediately.	November 11, 2005 (Friday)- Until 9:00 A.M. 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue cor. Rufino St., Makati City

Bidding documents/forms shall be made available to interested bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Requirements/Bid Proposals and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to waive any informality or minor defect and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidders' participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI-October 24, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTORITY

REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
FAX. NO. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HAULING/TRUCKING SERVICES FOR NFA, REGION VIII

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of hauling/trucking for the Calendar Year 2005 in the transfer of stocks from source to its identified NFA Warehouse with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as follows:

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00)

Lot No.	Province	Source of Stocks	Destination	Min. No. Of Trucks Req'd	Estd Vol. Bags of 50 kg	Rate Per Bag of 50 kg	Approved Budget for the Contract(P)
1	N. Leyte	Tac. Port	Port Area	6 (10Wheelers)	120,000	4.80	576,000.00
			Alangalang		300,000	6.76	2,028,000.00
			Maasin		5,000	34.35	171,750.00
			Guiuan		5,000	28.45	142,250.00
		Alangalang	Naval		5,000	22.48	112,400.00
			Ormoc		2,000	18.77	37,540.00
			TOTAL		437,000		3,067,940.00
2	S. Leyte	Maasin Port	NFA Maasin	4 (6Wheelers)	80,000	4.80	384,000.00
		Maasin Whse	NFA Baybay		1,200	18.19	21,828.00
		Baybay Port	NFA Baybay		40,000	4.80	192,000.00
			TOTAL		121,200		597,828.00
3	Biliran	Naval Port	NFA Naval	3 (6Wheelers)	100,000	4.80	480,000.00
4	W. Samar	Calbalogan Port	Calb. Whse	3 (10Wheelers)	145,000	4.80	696,000.00
		Calb. Whse	Calbayog Whse	2 (6Wheelers)	4,800	15.99	76,752.00
			OrasWhse E.S.		60,000	23.10	1,386,000.00
		Calbayog Port	Calbayog Whse		145,000	4.80	696,000.00
			TOTAL		354,800		2,854,752.00
5	N. Samar	San Jose Port	Bobon Whse	2 (10Wheelers)	70,000	4.80	336,000.00
			Rawis Whse	3 (6Wheelers)	90,000	14.60	1,314,000.00
			Catubig Whse		35,000	19.46	681,100.00
			Victoria Whse		15,000	8.46	126,900.00
			TOTAL		210,000		2,458,000.00
6	E. Samar	Borongan Port	Borongan Whse	3 (10Wheelers)	110,00	4.80	528,000.00
		Borongan Whse	Oras Whse	2 (6Wheelers)	2,400	17.82	42,768.00
		Guiuan Port	Guiuan Whse		90,000	4.80	432,000.00
			Borongan Whse		2,400	21.78	52,272.00
			TOTAL		204,800		1,055,040.00
			CUM TOTAL				10,513,560.00

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	Oct. 19-26, 2005 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	Nov. 3, 2005 (5:00 pm)
Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Notice of Eligibility	Nov. 10, 2005 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	Nov. 11, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Submission and Opening of Bids (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	Nov. 23, 2005 (9:30 am)

Interested bidder should at least meet the minimum requirement of TH trucks as required per province. In case bidder does not meet the required minimum number of units of TH trucks, NFA may accept back-to-back Letter Agreement with other TH owners/operators to be listed under the bidder's fleet.

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective bidder owner (for sole Proprietorship) and/or Resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids thereof, to waive any formalities or defects found therein, or to accept such bids or award to any Contractor whose Bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the government.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager/
Chairman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 24, 2005)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

INTRODUCING!!! **YOUNG MAGIC**
(formerly **YOUNG GIANT**)

Pure organic liquid fertilizer – a new technology and first of its kind is in need of a dealer, who will handle the regional or nationwide distribution.

1. Dealer is allowed/free to use own trade mark/brand name in marketing the product;
2. The product comes in presentably-packed, non-breakable and tamper-proof unlabeled plastic bottles;
3. Guaranteed superior quality and abundant supply;
4. Product covered with FPA permit No. 1-1LP-1004; and
5. Price is open for negotiation.

FOR INQUIRY CALL:

V-4 Farms, Inc., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
c/o Mr. Mario David – Cell # (0917) 5476569
Tel. # (034) 4351525; (034) 4348871;
(034) 4348769
Telefax # (034) 4351526

YOU CAN VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.V4FARMS.NET

"Applicable to any plants under the sun."

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
#89 Progressive Sales & Development Corp. Bldg.
P. Burgos cor. Alegre St., Batangas City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BIDDING FOR COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS
ITB# PRO4B-05-002

The PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B (PRO IV-B) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Computers and Printers.

LOT NO.	PARTICULARS	UNITS	SPECIFICATIONS	APPROVED BUDGET
1	Desktop Computers	33	Ref. No. PRO4B-05001 (12 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-05002 (19 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-05003 (2 units)	1,900,000.00
2	Laserjet Printer	5	Ref. No. PRO4B-05004	100,000.00
3	Printer Dot Matrix	6	Ref. No. PRO4B-05005	180,000.00

Budget for the subject contracts for bid shall be sourced from the internal corporate operating budget (COB CY2005) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Bidding documents can be secured from the **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT, ADMIN. DEPT, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B, #89 PSDC Bldg., P. Burgos corner Alegre Sts., Batangas City**, during regular office hours starting **October 24, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand one hundred eighty pesos **(Php 2,180.00)**. A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **Nov. 9, 2005** at **1:30 p.m.** at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on **Nov. 21, 2005** on or before **11:00 a.m.** to the BAC Secretariat at the Admin. Dept. Opening of bids will follow at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room. **Late bids will not be accepted.**

The BAC shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using **non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.**

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	One percent (1%) per lot
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%) per lot

For more information, contact the BAC Secretariat at Telephone no. **723-8822 local 201 & 204.**

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CIRILO C. BALMACEDA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI- Oct. 24 & 31, 2005)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING MARKETING MANAGER SALES ASSOCIATES

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B) HIGHLY REWARDING COMMISSION SCHEMES
C) ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVE PACKAGES

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- DYNAMIC AND AGGRESSIVE INDIVIDUALS
- WILLING TO ATTEND OUR RIGID TRAINING PROGRAM
- PREFERABLY WITH EXPERIENCE IN REAL ESTATE SELLING

FOR INTERESTED APPLICANTS, PLEASE APPLY PERSONALLY & FILL-UP APPLICATION FORM

LEXBER, INC.
#63 Panay Avenue, Quezon City
(IN FRONT OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE)

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

SF-GOOD-05 REF. No. CL-05-10-0378

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City Government of Zamboanga*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	*Location/ Office*	*Brief Description*	*Approved Budget for the Contract*	*Contract Duration/ P.R. No.*	*Delivery Period*
1. Other Supplies	CPSO	Wheeled Refused Bins w/ Lid Cover	2,256,000.00	100-05-10-2442	25wd
2. Drugs and Medicines	Stocks-CGSO -Stocks- CM Paragas	Amoxicillin, Cefalexin etc..	310,480.00 1,163,540.00 1,474,020.00	100-05-09-1993 100-05-09-1994	15wd

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement andScreening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities as follows.

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 19 - Nov. 2, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference wil be conducted at City Budget Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City	October 21, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	November 3, 2005
4. Bid Evaluation	November 3, 2005
5. Post-qualification	November 3, 2005
6. Notice of Award	November 7, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P900.00 item no. 1, P600.00 item no. 2, to the City Treasurer.

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA SAN AGUSTIN GARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 18 & 24, 2005)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978888 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Memories Expo: An Expo for the Death Care Industry

AS ALL SOULS DAY nearly approaches, the Philippine Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila presents the "Memories Expo," an exhibit specially organized to bring together different products and services related to the death care industry. The event is organized to coincide with the publication of Memories 2. The expo will feature different companies and showcase their services to the public from funeral parlors, pre-need plans, florists, grief counseling, columbarium, memorial parks, catering, NGOs and suppliers from candles, coffins, tombstones, urns, etc. We invite everyone to visit the exhibitor's booths and get to know the latest trends and information. This two day event shall be held on October 25 and 26 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside Manila City Hall).

In Loving Memory
10th Death Anniversary

Melchor E. de Guzman, Sr.

(May 29, 1945 – October 24, 1995)

Holy Masses for his Eternal Peace and Happiness will be offered at the following churches today, October 24, 2005:

Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Ave., Q.C.	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Cathedral, Poblacion, Alaminos City	6:00 A.M.
St. Therese Parish Church, Rizal Extension, Dagupan City	6:00 A.M.
St. Isidore Parish Church, Poblacion, Burgos, Pangasinan	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Parish Church, Poblacion, Aguilar, Pangasinan	6:00 A.M.
St. James the Great Parish, Germinal District, Bolinao, Pangasinan	6:00 A.M.
San Andres Parish Church, South Poblacion, Masinloc, Zambales	6:00 A.M.

His wife **Maribel,** children: **Greg, Mitos** and **Melchor, Jr., Vicky** and **Sophia,** request all his loved ones, relatives, and friends to join them in praying for him.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

MATEO TORRES CAPILI

Now peacefully rests
in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord
on October 22, 2005 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Tess;** children: **Ronan, Ronna Carlota, Raul, Celma;** grandchildren and great-grandchildren wish to inform relatives and friends that his remains lie in state at the Montserrat Chapel, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on October 26, 2005, Wednesday after the 9:00 am Mass at Loyola Memorial Park.

Angelito Espiritu Bautista

"Sonny"

Peacefully joined our Creator
on October 23, 2005 at the age of 65.

He was a loving husband to **Teresita (Baby) Garcia,**
a wonderful father to **Apples, Orange** & **Jet,** and **Peaches,**
a doting Lollipop to **Jelo** & **Isabela,**
a cherished brother to **Lady** & **Tristan, Daisy** and **Peachy**
and a beloved relative & friend to all the lives he had touched.

His remains lie in state at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on October 27, 2005 after the 9:00 am Mass.

A donation to the projects of the **Sisters of St. Anne** will be appreciated.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Portable and Digital Type Multi-Grain Moisture Meters with a weight sample of 12 grams (minimum)

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply and Delivery of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY (130) units of Portable and Digital Type Multi-Grain Moisture Meters with weight sample of 12 grams (minimum), and with an Approved Budget Contract of PESOS: FIVE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (P5,850,000.00) only. Delivery of the units is required within 60 days from issuance of Notice to Proceed.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least a sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Mr. Tomas R. Escarez, Asst. Dept. Manager, DMO and/or Ms. Ma. Dolores Fernandez, Division Chief, DMO, 5th F. Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, Tel. No. 742-4140 or 711-7433, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by interested Bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee, in cash, in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) only.

The Biding Schedule is as follows:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bidding Documents	October 24 to November 8, 2005
Pre-bidding Conference	November 8, 2005, 10:00 AM
Deadline for the Submission of Bids	November 22, 2005, 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	November 22, 2005, (immediately after Submission)

The venue for the Pre-bidding Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check, in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the Approved Budget Contract. Late Bids will not be accepted.

It is required that prospective bidders must have a single largest contract – completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to bid – whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least percent fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JESSUP P. NAVARRO**
Deputy Administrator for Operations
and Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Oct. 24 & 31, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Corporation Finance Department
6th Floor SEC Bldg. EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.725-8508; 728-2264; Fax 728-2990
Website: http://www.sec.gov.ph

IN THE MATTER OF:
GSM CEBU INVESTOR FINANCE CORPORATION
(Formerly, GSM Cebu Lending Investor, Inc.)
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4 and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provisions of Republic Act No. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be in G/F, Athecor Bldg., Hi-way, Tipolo, Mandaue City.

Capital Structure of the Applicant:

Authorized Capital Stock	P 20,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock	10,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock	10,000,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name	Position
William Gotohio	Chairman
Chu Lee Sun	Director/President
Linda Uy	Director/Secretary/Treasurer
Pedro Chao	Director/Vice-President
Shirley Lim	Director/Internal Auditor
Albino Yap	Director
Armela Santiago	Director

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing, personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. No. 8556, the Implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been complied with no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.

September 22, 2005

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI-Oct. 17 & 24, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
Trans Co

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Conversion of Warehouse to Multi-Purpose Hall of South Luzon Operations & Maintenance

An existing old warehouse within the South Luzon Operations & Maintenance compound is proposed for conversion into an eight hundred sq.m. (800 sq.m.) concrete & steel structured multi-purpose hall for use of Transco's various activities and to also serve as sports gymnasium.

(TRANS-05-CWMPHSLOM-EG-03-PB2)

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM,** through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Twelve Million One Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Nineteen & 03/100 (Php 12,165,219.03)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *conversion of Warehouse to Multi-Purpose Hall at South Luzon Operations & Maintenance.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for *the conversion of existing warehouse within the South Luzon Operations Maintenance compound to a multi-purpose building for various Transco activities and to also serve as sports gymnasium.* Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category B, General Building"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Medium A, Building & Industrial Plant"***, respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the construction of all types of buildings, i.e., housing, schools, hospitals, market, multi-storey buildings, airport terminal and other related structures. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***November 10, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by *160 calendar days.*

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184, (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***October 17-November 05, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php 1,500.00.* They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***November 10, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***November 10, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***November 21-22, 2005.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***PhP 4,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***November 21-22, 2005, 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***November 25, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***December 08, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address below. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***December 08, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Reynaldo B. Vergara – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094, 4086, 4053
rbvergara@transco.ph
(02) 981-45-76 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) REYNALDO B. VERGARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 18 & 24, 2005)

NFA to distribute iron-fortified rice in Aklan

THE NATIONAL FOOD Authority in Banga, Aklan is set to distribute iron-fortified rice in the market in line with the full implementation of the Philippine Food Fortification Program nationwide. According to NFA Aklan provincial manager Pablito Gemarino, some 3,500 bags of iron-fortified rice will be distributed in NFA-accredited rice outlets at P21 per kilogram. Target distribution are those where the incidence of malnutrition is prevalent. Republic Act 8976 or the Philippine Food Fortification Law requires that NFA rice must be fortified with iron to help in the reduction of iron deficiency anemia especially among school children and lactating mothers. Iron deficency results in weak mental and physical performance. Iron-fortified rice was initially available in Metro Manila and was later distributed in Cebu and in the provinces of Negros Oriental and Siquijor in Region VII, Bukidnon, Camiguin and Misamis Oriental in Region X, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur in the CARAGA region. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-8210927.

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

375 pcs. of 3-1/2" OD of seamless Drillpipes Under FDM 53310	**Approved Budget** PHP 29,000,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** starting **October 18, 2005,** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 27, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Purchasing and Traffic Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time) of November 10, 2005.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI – October 17 & 24, 2005)

JOB Market Read it every Sunday with the INQUIRER & www.JOBMarketonline.com Visit us JOB Market

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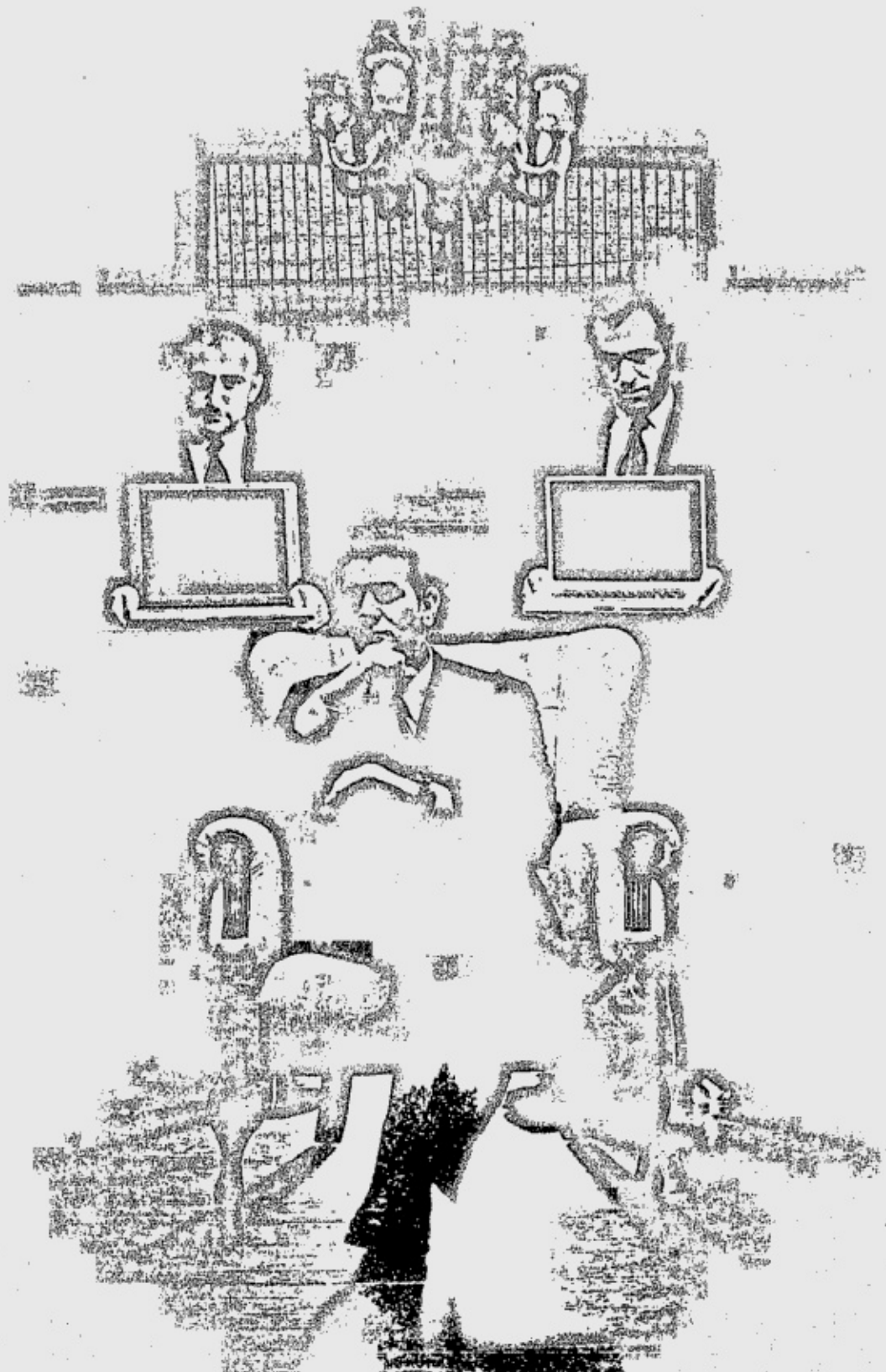
CALL IT THE BEST DEAL IN TOWN.



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Get to choose from a range of Celeron and Pentium 4 PCs and laptops.

PC	Specifications					Price with Windows XP Home	Monthly installment charged to PLDT bill
Desktop	Processor	HDD	RAM	Speed/Drive	Combo		
Celeron	Intel Celeron 2.26 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD-ROM	15"	P21528	P897
Pentium 4	Intel Pentium 4 2.66 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD-ROM	15"	P25975	P1082
Dual Pentium 4	Intel Pentium 4 2.93 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD-ROM	15"	P32025	P1334
IBM Pentium 4	IBM Pentium 4 3.06 GHz	80 GB	256 MB	CD-ROM	15"	P34594	P1441
Laptop							
Acer Celeron Laptop	Intel Celeron 1.5 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD-RW/DVD-R	15"	P41723	P1664
IBM Celeron Laptop	Intel Celeron 1.5 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD-ROM	14"	P48060	P2003
Acer Centrino Laptop	Intel Centrino 1.6GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD-RW/DVD-R	15"	P53985	P2250
IBM Centrino Laptop	Intel Centrino 1.7GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD-ROM	14"	P57820	P2409

myDSL Biz Plans	Monthly Fee	Allowable PC Purchase
Explorer	P 3,000	1 Desktop
Entrepreneur	P 4,000	1 Desktop
Enterprise	P 8,000	2 Desktops
Empire	P 4,500	1 Desktop & 1 Laptop
Powerpack	P 25,000 P 45,000 P 80,000	1 Desktop & 1 Laptop

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THE STORY OF HENRY SY

'Opportunity is where you find it, not where it finds you'

TERESITA SY-COSON

(Speech delivered by SM Group CEO Ms Teresita T. Sy at the Management Association of the Philippines' (MAP) 4th International CEO Conference last Oct. 19, 2005)

SURVIVING DURING A TIME of crisis is a matter of choice. We have learned from our own experience that going into business and staying in it during difficult times is a deliberate choice one makes. You have to want to weather through the tough times.

And while we may have little control over external factors during crises, we can in a way control our destinies by the choices we make. Many things will depend on your own survival instinct, as in many things in life.

All of us here have our own concept (or theory) of business. Some of us think of it as a need, others see it as an exciting endeavor, and there are those of us who think of it as too stressful, especially during slow economic times like this.

Business is the same at all times. When times are good, there is a lot of demand, and that gives rise to a lot of competitiveness and the need for innovations. When times are bad, the market contracts with the many players sharing the same shrinking market. But you still have competition and still need innovations. So whether it be good or bad times, you have competition and stress.

'Whether it be good or bad times, you have competition and stress'

In good times, you have a lot of opportunities. In bad times, you have lesser, but nonetheless you still have opportunities.

Our company, SM, as many of you may already know, came from the hard work of my dad, Henry Sy Sr. It is a rags to riches story that even myself did not realize until I went to trace his roots in China. His journey from the thatched hut I saw there to the shopping centers he has today is something that amazes even myself. His determination, his discipline, and his thriftiness have produced an astute and street smart businessman who has influenced a lot of people, including us, his children.

Our company has done pretty well during bad times, not that we need bad times to prosper. My father's perseverance during the different crises our country has gone through made our active business pursuits possible for half a century. True, he was disappointed with the economy many times, but he never saw the reason to quit and instead pursued his goals relentlessly. He had many obstacles—both external and internal—in his business, and there were times he could not understand why things had to be so complicated for him to pursue his business objectives. Yet, he persisted through all economic and political times.

From the bottom

It has been written—and I can attest that it is true—that Henry Sy started from the bottom. He came to the Philippines at the young age of 12, and worked in his father's small *sari-sari* store more than 12 hours every day to help him. There, he devised ways to increase his income by developing small portions of products—much like the sachets we see today in the supermarkets. He was able to make multiple sales in order to make extra income, spending so much time in the store that he had no time to go out and play with friends in the neighborhood. It did not take a long time for him to realize, however, that he can only do so much in a sari-sari store environment.

WWII came and the sari-sari store was looted and burned. He did a lot of buying and selling of odd things during the war to enable the family to survive. This must have provided him the hands-on training for his stamina in business. At one time, he was hit by a shrapnel while selling, and quite fortunately was brought to the hospital by his good friend in a *kariton*. Without that friend, he could have bled to death. He treasured that friendship and later expressed his gratitude after the war by making that friend his partner in a shoe store. The partnership lasted for more than 40 years until the shoe store had to give way to the building renovations of the lessor.

After the war ended in 1945, he ventured into selling American shoes imported by enterprising GIs. He later saw the opportunities of opening a shoe store, and not long after was managing three shoe stores in partnership with friends.

With the pressure of a growing family while at the same time pursuing his studies at FEU in the early '50s, he sought more ways to augment his income. He studied the market and decided to be different. While other young men went to the US to pursue a higher education, he went on a long business trip to the East Coast, and came home with a lot of merchandising ideas. For a time, he was selling a lot of

OPPORTUNITY/ B2-1

'Opportunity is where you find it ...

From page B2- 1

shoes, accessories, and leather goods, hoping to change the way shoe manufacturers look at the industry.

First shoe store

Sensing a lot of opportunities, he decided to open Shoemart, the first air-conditioned shoe store that merchandised shoes in a very inviting and classy format. With the success of that store, he went on to open more shoe stores, but he could not get enough suppliers. Many shoe manufacturers at that time could not understand why they had to listen to this shoe retailer who had very definite ideas on what he wanted to sell. They did not cooperate by providing him with the volume he needed, and because of that limitation, he gradually shifted to apparel—and thereafter other merchandise—with the help of my mother. He was continuously learning from his customers, suppliers, and employees. This on-the-job research gave him enough confidence to expand to a department store chain.

Many things in life grow out of needs, and to meet the needs, you become determined. With determination you will take extra challenges and do things differently—which will most likely bring success.

We opened our first department store in 1972, two months after martial law was declared. The business had a slow start, but progressed steadily. During the martial law years, he continued to open more department stores, reaching a point wherein he could not get space he needed in the existing shopping centers during that time. He then decided to think long term, and invest in properties for malls, which were patterned after the American suburban shopping centers, which he had been studying for sometime.

When we started the construction of our first mall in 1983, the Philippines was in the midst of a debt moratorium and experiencing hyper inflation. The economy's decline was further aggravated by the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. Many bankers predicted our demise because my Dad came from nowhere—he may have a few department stores and shoe stores at that time, but he was not one of the financial heavyweights at that time. Unaffected by criticism, and armed with sheer determination and optimism, he persisted and opened in 1985 with our department store and supermarket and a few tenants. Many potential lessees were saying no to lease offers.

At about the same time, given the social unrest of the times, our own Shoemart Makati store was faced with ugly strikes. He almost gave up, but through the encouragement of his employees and customers, he continued. At that time, he decided emotionally draining disturbances should not overpower him or detract him from his goals. Since that time, he has not faltered in his confidence, and became even more determined to continue the business. He also convinced everyone of us in the organization to follow his optimism.

Baptism of fire

Later, we expanded, slowly building malls at that time to get our formula right. The expansion was not without difficulties. When constructing Sta. Mesa and Megamall, we were faced with delays in construction due to cement shortages, the 1989 coups, and the lawsuits of our partners in Megamall. The latter arose from a misunderstanding that we were opening other malls at their expense, and from their inability to understand the shopping center business, which was a long-term investment and therefore could not produce short-term income. That was our baptism of fire in the real world of the courts and the media.

This experience taught us many things about business. During the time the case was active, my Dad remained steadfast in continuing what was right for the business, treating it the same way with or without partners. He believes that during times of crises, we should not have internal problems among shareholders as it makes things more complicated. Rather than focus on internal squabbling, we should focus our attention on meeting the demands of our market and outside competition.

The problem was later resolved, and the partnership focused on the core business of shopping center operations. It also brought in good revenues, and there were less animosity in the discussions as these centered more on dividend payout schedules.

When the 1997 Asian crisis came, we were planning our mall expansion, including the Mall of Asia, which was then envisioned to be the biggest mall in the region. Because my Dad felt the tsunami-like effects of the region-wide crisis, which was unlike any other he had experienced, we had to change plans. We deferred opening the Mall of Asia, and went on with the opening of other malls.

Beyond department stores

We grew in numbers instead of size, serving different smaller markets. At present, we are opening three or four shopping centers a year. We have also expanded our retail business beyond department stores to include supermarkets, hardware stores, appliance superstores, and other retail formats.

At about the same time, we looked into the banking business—both at our bank and at the industry. At the time, our main bank, Banco de Oro, was a medium-sized bank. Because we were quite conservative in lending, the deluge of bad loans that characterized the times did not affect us. Given that, we thought it was an opportune time to grow amidst some instabilities.

We reorganized and strengthened our organizations for about three years and developed growth strategies that started in the year 2000. Encouraged by the consolidation program of BSP in making Philippine banks more competitive relative to the region, Banco de Oro made a few acquisitions because of the moratorium on banking. It acquired the Dao Heng Philippines branch, the First E-Bank, the Banco Santander Philippines branch, and most recently, the UOB branches. We view our recent foray into Equitable PCI Bank as an opportunistic purchase—it is a potentially good investment if we have enough patience to whether its controversies. In another front, our purchase in San Miguel runs along the same rationale.

Opportunity is where you find it, not where it finds you. Crisis and weakness indicate where one can look for opportunities. Transforming problems into opportunities can bring good returns. Prosperity and growth come only to a business that systematically exploits its potentials and systematically optimizes its performances.

Our business—especially that of shopping centers—is a long-term business. It takes at least eight years to pay back. We feel that the country will always be around, and with the Filipino's love for shopping, there will always be customers we can sell to.

Our retail business is still going forward despite the fact that there are a lot of competitions and the market is not exactly growing because of the economic times. Expansion is necessary to keep our sales going and to maintain some growth. It is not a great time, but we have to persist. We have to re-create and reinvent ourselves from time to time. Our Makati store has been renovated to serve more sophisticated customers. Our Mall of Asia, which will be opening soon, will give a different shopping experience.

We also have to continuously innovate. Our other retail formats like supermarkets, hardware stores, appliance stores, home stores, toy superstores, baby stores, and Watsons are continuously evolving with the shopping habits of our customers. Because they frequently visit the store, we make sure we have new products all the time so that their shopping experience will not be boring.

Our group's policy is to look for opportunities at all times, and to be ready to act when it comes. While crises may have brought opportunities, we continue our plans in good or bad times with some changes to suit the demands of the time. Sometimes, we accelerate, sometimes we reduce the speed. But we never put on the brakes completely. The slow, steady and consistent churning of our machinery—our financial as well as human resources—has given us the focus to grow into the size we have today. We do not stop growing during crises.

Our company has done well during times of crises—not that we need these crises to prosper. It has grown from an entrepreneurial proprietorship to a family business to a large corporation during the different economic and political crises.

Like other companies in the Asian region, we constantly build a culture of perpetual crisis in our group to survive.

There is growth and there are opportunities in time of crisis—we just have to make the choice to survive and the choice to navigate through these rough waters.

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Conference Program & Schedule

The 4th National E-Commerce Congress and Exhibit

Day 1, October 25, 2005, Tuesday

- Keynote Address
- Industry Situationer: 'IT/E-Commerce/Mobile/ Wireless as Technology Tools for SMEs'
- Relevant Legislation on ICT/E-Commerce / Mobile/Wireless Affecting SME Business
- E-Commerce in a Nutshell: A Starter Course (Building websites, planning substansive content for web sites, choosing your ISP, domain name registration, search engine optimization, and affiliate program)
- Presentation and Panel Discussion on Database Marketing, Web Advertising, Mobile Marketing
- Creating Consumer Evangelists: Blogging, and Other Participative Technologies
- ICT and Telecom Presentation

Day 2, October 26, 2005, Wednesday

- Industry Situationer on Mobile Payment
- Available e-Payment Solutions (Panel Discussion and Discussion plus Case Presentation)
- Mobile Micro Payment in Small Business
- Security on Mobile Payment
- Business Efficiency and Productivity Through Technology (Best Practices and Case Study on e-Enterprise for SMEs)
- VOIP Panel Discussion: 'Leveraging the Opportunity of VOIP'
- ICT and Telecom Presentation

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Raul J. Palabrica

WITH THE TRADITIONAL means of raising funds—loans, bonds, debentures, depositary receipts and initial public offerings—losing their attractiveness, the government is looking at "securitization" as the next big thing in the capital market.

In March 2004, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9267, or the Securitization Act of 2004. Its implementing rules and regulations were issued last June.

Securitization is the process by which assets are sold to a special purpose entity (SPE), which then issues asset-backed securities (ABS) that depend on the cash flow from the assets sold.

The process was originally used as a tool to raise capital in the United States in the '80s when its mortgage market turned soar.

Some financial wizards at that time packaged the mortgage loans together and sold them as securities in the secondary market using the government's guarantee of payment of the principal and interest as a carrot to attract investors.

With the reduced credit risk (which is brought about by the pooling of assets), availability in small denominations and assured returns, the securities attracted small and medium-sized investors who wanted to explore non-traditional investment opportunities

From mortgage loans, the financial scheme has expanded to cover credit card balances, accounts receivables, housing loans and other similar credit facilities.

Under RA 9267, the assets that can be securitized include loans, receivables, debt instruments and other financial resources with expected cash payment streams.

The listing is not exhaustive; other financial arrangements may, in the future, be added by the Securities and Exchange Commission or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas depending on market conditions.

The law, however, excludes receivables from future revenues by national or local governments arising from royalties, fees or imposts.

The carve out is necessary because government budgetary rules frown upon encumbering ahead of time revenues that may be derived by government offices from the sources mentioned.

The securitization process starts with the creation of an SPE that will buy the assets from their original owners.

The SPE should be a stock corporation organized in accordance with SEC rules and whose only business is securitization.

In the alternative, a special purpose trust administered by an entity authorized to perform trust functions under the General Banking Law and created solely for securitization may act as SPE.

Whatever its form may be, the SPE has to submit for SEC approval a securitization plan that shall include, among others, the following:

- The nature and mechanics of the sale of the assets from the seller;
- The credit enhancements or liquidity supports of the ABS;
- The aggregate principal amount of the value of the ABS to be issued and the denominations it shall be issued which shall not be lower than P5,000.

Full disclosure of the material terms and conditions of the securitization is required so the public is made aware of the risks of investing in the ABS.

And because securities are involved, the ABS must be registered with the SEC and should get a credit rating from an accredited rating agency.

(The full text of RA 9267 and its implementing rules and regulations can be read in www.sec.gov.ph.)

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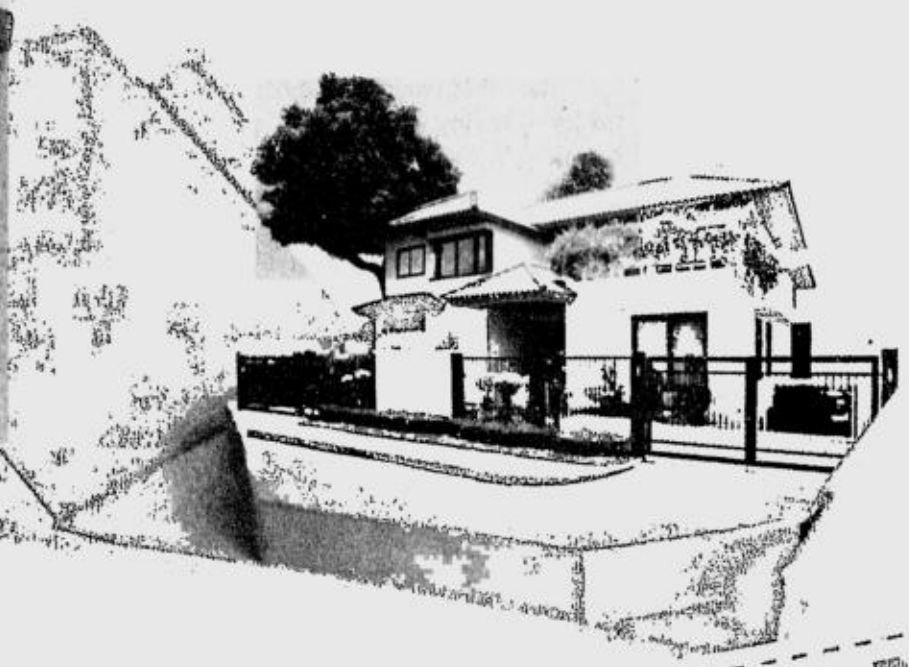

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MESSAGES

MALACAÑANG PALACE
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I extend warm felicitations to the management & employees of Winsource Solutions, incorporated on the occasion of your company's inaugural opening.

The opening of your company affirms business confidence in the Philippines as a global force in information & communications technology. We are proud of our highly-skilled and hardworking workforce that is proven to be among the best in the world.

Together, we shall build a strong foundation fro economic growth and technology transfer to ensure a brighter future for the country.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Our warmest greetings to the management and staff of WinSource Solutions Inc. on the inauguration of your Call Center at Robinsons Cybergate Tower, Mandaluyong City on 24 October 2005.

We also congratulate the partners in this joint business venture - between Win Ace Holdings Phils., Inc. and U.K. Mabey Group of Companies for choosing the Philippines as their contact center site whose initial services will focus on services for the US market. These services include the full life cycle of customer retention programs, technical support, helpdesk, financial and billing inquiries. With a management team that will deliver programs across all major vertical services including communications, financial services, technology and retail, the company will surely be one of the major players in the Philippine contact center industry.

With the company initially intending to provide a capacity of 1,000 seats and employ approximately 2,000 employees. WinSource's operations will definitely add mileage to government's thrust of creating more employment and career opportunities for thousands of Filipino IT workers.

The phenomenal growth of the ICT services industry into one of the Philippine's strongest services export sectors placed the Philippines on the global IT industry map as an important outsourcing services provider, thereby generating jobs for thousands of talented young Filipino software designers, engineers, artists and animators and other professionals in the IT-enables services.

In positioning the Philippines as the "e-Services Hub of Asia" and one of the world's richest sources of knowledge workers, our thrust is to promote our ICT professionals and develop world-class services capabilities for emerging ICT sectors not only in call centers but also in business process outsourcing, software development, medical and legal transcription, engineering design, and animation - which have high growth and development potential.

We are confident that WinSource Solution Inc's presence and participation in the Philippines will promote our IT services as a strong, united sector capable of delivering its value proposition to clients. Indeed, this will put us another step ahead in our efforts to actualize the full potential of IT services as a dynamic pillar for economic progress.

To the men and women of WinSource Solutions, Inc., our sincere congratulations and best wishes for success.

Mabuhay!

PETER B. FAVILA
DTI-Secretary

The Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP) warmly welcomes Winsource Solutions to the Philippines. Your presence in the country only reinforces the fact that the Philippines is indeed the destination of choice for global outsourced call centers.

We are certain that you made the right decision to operate in the Philippines, with our distinct advantages: our world-class facilities, our strategic location, our cost competitiveness, and of course, our highly-skilled workforce. CCAP is committed in its vision to bolster the contact center industry and ensure its long-term growth. That is why we are pleased with the entry of Winsource to our shores. Rest assured the association is here to provide you with support.

In behalf of CCAP, I congratulate Winsource and I wish you the best in your business here in the Philippines. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Jojo Uligan
Executive Director
Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP)

The Philippine call center industry is currently growing at a faster rate than anywhere else in the world. Leading experts regard the country as the best location for US companies to outsource call center services. Telsource will continue to outsource to the Philippines because of their strong affinity for U.S. culture, an ample supply of English speaking, computer and Web-savvy college graduates who view contact center work as a career, and superior performance. Even the Arroyo government recognizes the importance of call centers- the presidential palace held a call center job fair last year.

Amid this growth, Telsource has selected WinSource as its campaign provider because of their agent's near flawless American accents that gave them an edge over the other call centers who were under consideration. Telsource believes in the management and operational experience of the WinSource team and is confident in their ability to execute the SLAs for our campaign. Telsource congratulates WinSource for a successful launch and anticipates working closely together for many years to come!

Jim McCubbin
Director
Telsource International

WinSource Solutions is excited to announce the opening of its first Philippine based Contact Center. Our initial center will accommodate 270 seats with executive offices and full training facilities. We will endeavor to keep the Philippines as the outsource destination of choice, through high quality service delivery and enabling our clients to maintain a competitive advantage for taking their services offshore.

WinSource chose the Philippines as an ideal destination to service its US client base because of the skilled labor pool, good IT & basic infrastructure and cultural affinity. We are looking forward to offering world class services for our business partner

Grant Butsumyo
Managing Director, WinSource Solutions, Inc.

WinSource Solutions:

New Player in Growing RP Call Center Industry

The call center industry is big business in the Philippines. In fact, it was reported that the industry is expected to rake in some US$960 million in revenues this year, a 50 percent increase from the US$640 million it generated last year.

The same report added that the call center sector is projected to fully employ 96,000 Filipinos by the end of 2005, an increase of 50 percent from 64,000 last year. Five years ago, the call center sector had only 1,500 seats, 2,400 employees and posted only US$24 million in revenues. By year end, call center seats are expected to hit 60,000, up 33 percent from the 40,000 seats recorded last year.

With so much potential in the call center industry, it does not come as a surprise that a new player has decided to enter the fray. WinSource Solutions, Inc., with a British affiliate, will engage in the business of providing business process outsourcing services; information technology-enabled services that encompass call centers, data encoding, transcription and processing; knowledge based and computer-enabled support services and other information technology related services primarily to clients outside of the Philippines.

Grant Butsumyo, President & Managing Director, WinSource Solutions, Inc.

"We are really looking to establish a niche for the small and medium sized businesses," said Grant Butsumyo, Managing Director of WinSource Solutions.

"We are looking at enabling, helping and creating win-win solutions for the smaller guys who cannot afford to go offshore and may not have the expertise in-house. We can offer a very competitive solution."

The company is new to the business, with its first call scheduled for October 21, 2005 and its inauguration on October 24, 2005. The company is expected to provide a capacity of 1,000 seats over a period of five years with employment of approximately 2,000 people. No less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is expected to grace the occasion. But while it is new, WinSource Solutions boasts of a highly experienced management team.

Butsumyo related that the management team of WinSource Solutions is unique in the sense that it has gone through all the phases of putting up a call center. The group has gone through start up mode several times and during that process, they have been successful in transforming these organizations into highly competitive players in the industry.

"The other companies did not have the luxury of having such an experienced team," he said. "We know how to do start up, we know how to manage the programs and we have delivered, across all services, verticals and touch points in the industry."

It is because of this experience in the call center industry that enabled WinSource Solutions to get its first client. He added that part of the company's long term plan is to establish a presence in the US through a sales and marketing office and eventually the acquisition of an inbound center.

"We have about seven years of experience on average across the management team so we are using our network for opportunities that are deliverable for our organization," Butsumyo said.

WinSource In Action

Even if there are a growing number of call centers in the Philippines, Butsumyo is very optimistic that WinSource Solutions will be able to make its presence felt in the industry.

Training Facility

In fact, he said the call center industry in the Philippines can be considered to be in its second wave.

"There will come a point when saturation levels will be reached but we are very confident that over the next five years, it is very doable in the Philippines. It's just another challenge for the operators," he said. "It's just a matter of creativity on how you are going to do recruitment and how to keep your people motivated."

Butsumyo pointed out that over the past five years, the Philippines has emerged as the destination of choice. The Philippines, he said, is the ideal choice for American companies because of the people's English speaking capabilities and its cultural affinity.

Another advantage that the Philippines has is the quality of the call center agents it produces. These agents are, more often than not, university graduates who have decided to make a career out of being an employee of a call center.

"People here have the opportunity to move up, move laterally, learn additional skills and the education level is higher," Butsumyo said. "I think it is also a cultural thing because people here have the natural inclination of wanting to help and it's genuine."

WinSource Solutions hopes to further enhance their agents through their training programs. Each level, he pointed out, would have its own training programs with specific requirements to fulfill.

"Based on the management experience and the strategy planning process, from the very beginning, we are looking at empowering our employees with the right knowledge, the right resources, support and technology sets in order for them to deliver," he said. "Each level would have certain requirements throughout the year and that is part of their performance management."

Butsumyo is very confident that WinSource Solutions will be able to make its mark in the call center industry in the Philippines.

"We plan to hit our 1,000 seat goal in the next five years. We have our incremental goals broken down and staggered across the five year plan," he said. "And I think we are on track in terms of how we are provisioning right now, what's in the sales pipelines, what our first program is and how it's been launched. We are on track and very confident."

The Working Board

(L-R) Atty. Allan Gepty, Mr. Alvin Cabatit, Ms. Felicitas Lomotan, Mr. Grant Butsumyo, Mr. Albert Suarez

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LUIS Alandy in "Penis Talks 2"

The naked and the playing-dead

CHRISTIAN Vazquez

By Gibbs Cadiz

IN "ALL ABOUT MEN 2... Penis Talks Reloaded," the gay peep show masquerading as a musical revue that opened two weekends ago at the Music Museum, 17 young men with rippling abs, sweaty chests and unembarrassed faces cavort onstage in the skimpiest of Bench skivvies. (No, they don't sing "Jumbo Hotdog.")

They are joined by two women who keep their clothes on for the most part, and a pixie-faced actor with a fleshy, gnomelike frame—not at all displeasing to watch, but in the company of his shapely co-stars, a presence obviously meant for something else other than physical allure.

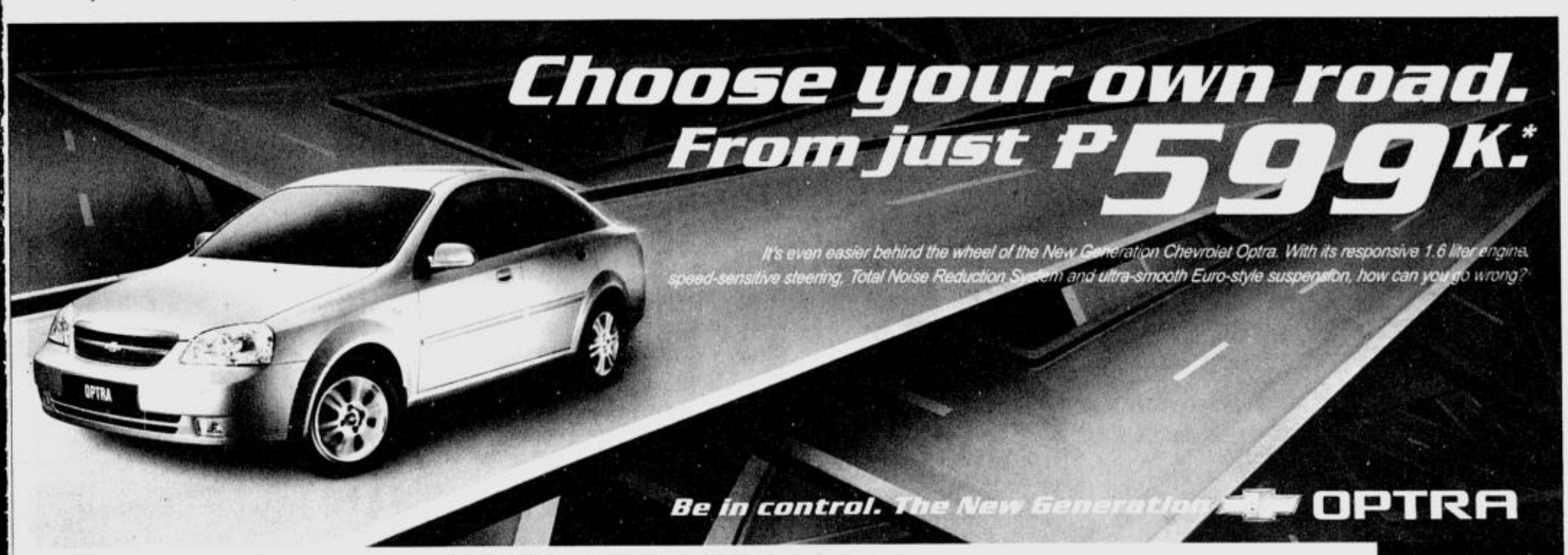
Best thing

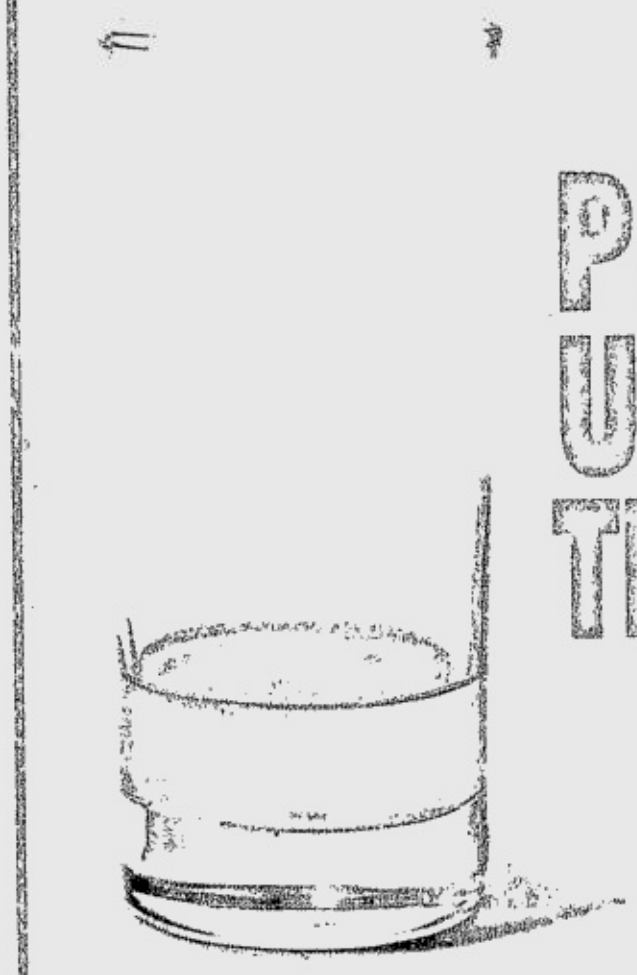
That actor is Ricci Chan, beloved by many "Rent"-heads as the first and the best Angel of the Broadway musical's local staging. Despite a height that barely vaults over 5 ft, Chan is proving to be the brawniest cast member of "Penis Talks 2." He must be, because on his puny shoulders rests pretty much what goes right in this preachy gay fantasia as an amateur drama club might have staged it.

Chan was also the best thing in last year's "Penis Talks 1." But this time, his exposure is bigger, allowing him to flex his natural showman's flair for the drop-dead punchline, the picturesque bitchiness. Whenever he's onstage, the business of talking about penises becomes a generally entertaining affair.

What goes horribly wrong,

THE NAKED/ C4





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Living traditions on tiny Taketomi Island

Japan's tropical islands hold lessons in cultural conservation

TINY TAKETOMI ISLAND (6.3 sq km, 330 inhabitants) is a little-known anachronism in ultra modern Japan. But that is precisely what makes the place so special.

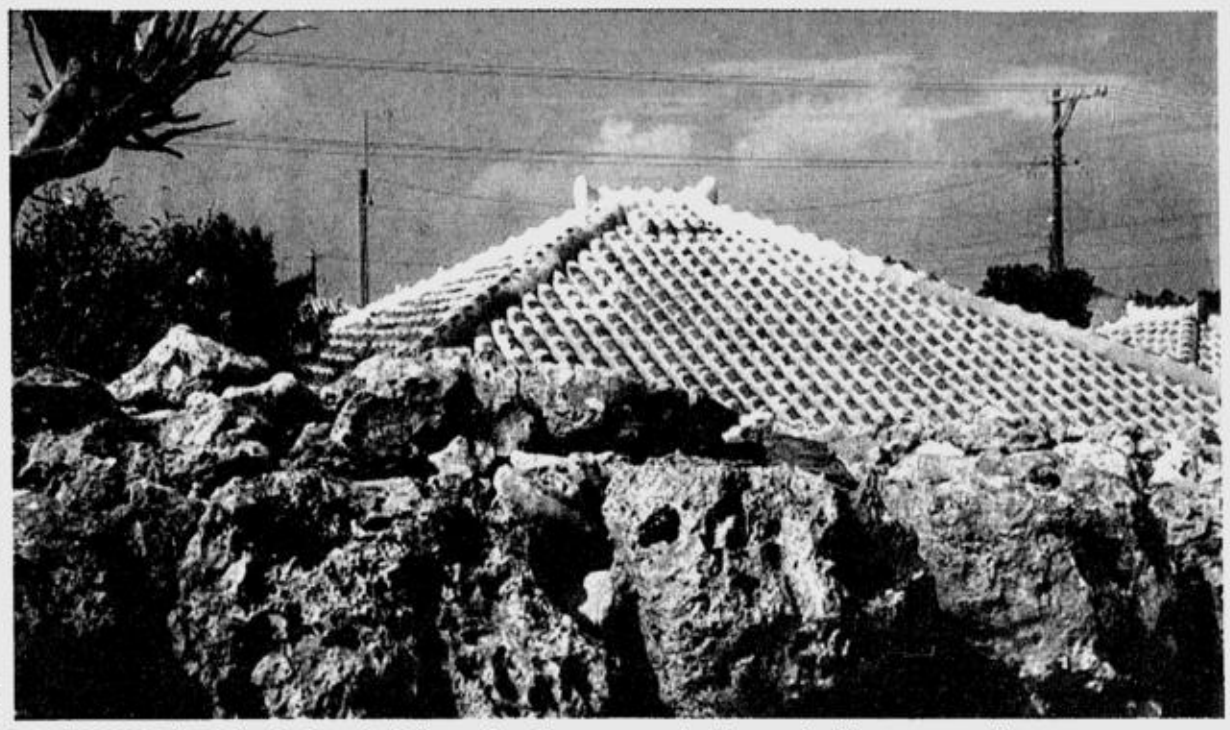
Taketomi-jima is close to the tip of an archipelago forming an arc stretching southward over 1,000 km from Okinawa toward Taiwan in the little-known Japanese tropics.

The archipelago was once the fabled Ryukyu Kingdom, a maritime power established in the 16th century which maintained close ties with China through Taiwan, sailing to trade with as far as the Philippines, Malacca and Indonesia, a strong force until 1879 when the kingdom was incorporated into Japan.

Castle ruins (Shuri, Nakagusuku, Katsuren Castles), shrines and royal mausoleums scattered on different islands are some of the Ryukyu legacy recently inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The war icon, Iwo-jima, is one of the islands. World War II took a heavy toll on the islands. The American government took postwar possession of the island chain as a protective buffer around its massive military base in Okinawa, maintaining control until the 1970s when the islands reverted to Japan.

SHOULDER-HIGH coral-stone walls line both sides of the narrow roads topped with immaculately clean white sand.



ORIGINALLY built of thatch, the typical Taketomi roof is now covered with more durable terra-cotta tiles.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

Surprise

That Japan has tropical islands comes as a surprise to those accustomed to the image of Japan of the serene Zen gardens, cherry blossoms washing each spring in pink and turning leaves red and gold in autumn beneath a backdrop of snow-capped mountain peaks.

Taketomi-jima is a world culturally, physically and environmentally removed from that image. Its climate and vegetation are tropical.

Its flat landscape, a coral outcrop glaringly white from limestone and fine white sand, is punctuated by coconut trees and tropical foliage. Pristine blue water teeming with marine life surrounding the island cools the blinding glare of the scenery.

Shoulder-high walls of coral stone line both sides of narrow roads, dividing the small village into a patchwork of squares and rectangles demarcating private front yards from roads that are more like wide footpaths with white sand underfoot.

Most of the roads are too narrow for even the smallest of cars. Walking or bicycling is the best way to get around.

Houses, all rectangular, uniformly placed at the center of a fenced lot, form a checkerboard village. All houses are wooden, with terra-cotta tile roofs with massive slopes and wide overhangs to protect façades of sliding paper screens from torrential monsoon rains.

Tall, sturdy trees grow in tight rows along fences, shielding houses from strong monsoon wind. Despite the poor arid soil, a profusion of flowering plants manages to grow.

Authentic houses

Most of the existing houses are authentic. There are few intrusions of modernity.

The uniformity of architecture and landscape is outstanding. Taketomi-jima has the rare quality of serenity resulting from incredible visual unity no longer seen in other places in the world.

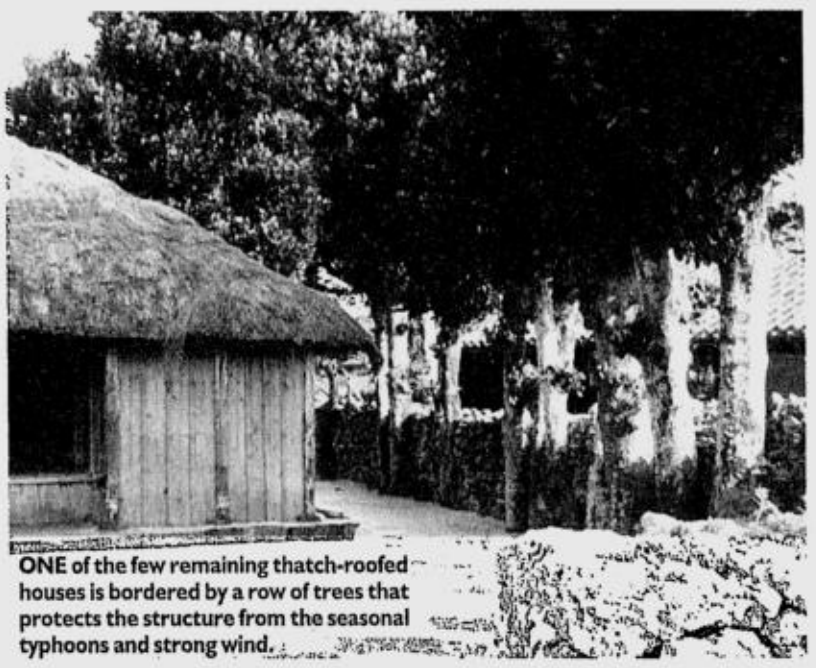
It is a place of peace. Its silence and tranquility are absolute.

The island is so isolated that only the hardiest Japanese get that far. I was probably the only non-Japanese there. thankful to have colleagues navigating me around. When they were not around. I felt I was in a vacuum without a way to communicate with anyone. The experience was meditative.

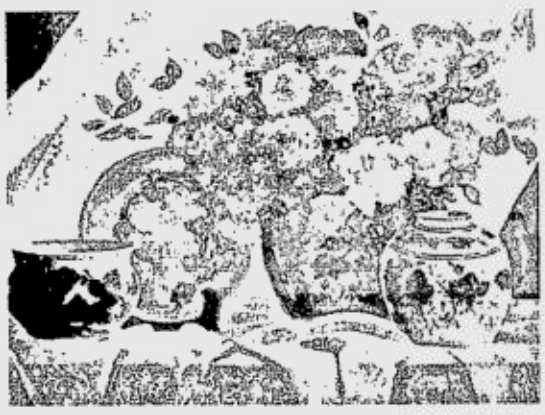
Getting there is not easy. Okinawa is the closest international air connection point. From there it takes another hour or so to fly to Ishigaki, the southernmost city in Japan. The last leg is the Taketomi-jima ferry which sails regularly from the city wharf.

The ferry is the island's lifeline. It depends on the outside for all its supplies. Even water and electricity are piped in from neighboring Ishigaki Island.

Aside from having the largest prawn



ONE of the few remaining thatch-roofed houses is bordered by a row of trees that protects the structure from the seasonal typhoons and strong wind.



BY JUN Tiongco

To see the works of Tiongco and Galura side by side is to witness a fellowship unfolding, forged in watercolor, rendered with profound skill and talent

Strong fellowship in still life

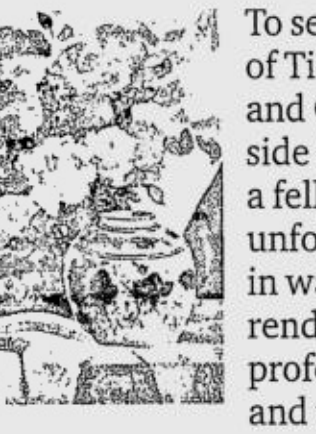
By Johnathan Libarios Rondina
Contributor

PAINTING STILL LIFE IS, MORE OFTEN than not, a private, personal moment for any artist. It is, after all, in quiet solitude that the artist achieves holy communion with his subject and where, often painfully and inevitably, still life is immortalized on canvass.

And so, on the rare occasions that this most sacred of rituals is broken, say, for example, in a collaboration between two artists with similar preferences in medium and still-life subjects, the spectator is invited to observe both the resulting intersections and collisions with great expectation.

In the case of Gallery Nine's "Variations on the Same Theme," featuring watercolorists Jun Tiongco and Alfred Galura, audiences are in for a visual feast of still life's finest, interpreted in two distinct styles by two equally gifted artists.

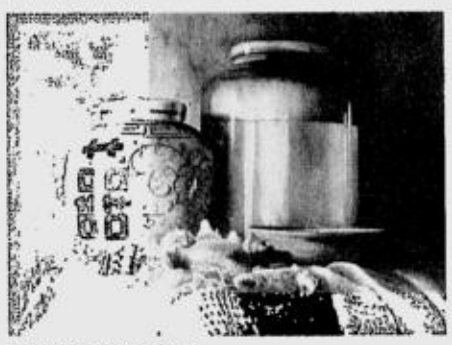
Tiongco, 48, is the more experienced of the two, having started his career in the visual arts thirty years ago. Like Galura, he hails from humble beginnings; financial difficulties forced him out of art studies in University of the Philippines early in his career. Undaunted, Tiongco persevered and is now one of the more popular watercolorists in the local art scene, having exhibited in many of the country's top galleries.



BY GALURA

Galura, 35, too, is no stranger to hard times. Five years ago he was an OFW, forced into blue-collar migration to the Middle East before art, his true passion, finally called him home for good. In 2003, he won grand prize at the Kulay sa Tubig annual watercolor competition. Today, Galura is a top favorite among many water color collectors.

Strangers to each other but familiar with one another's work, Tiongco and Galura were invited to create watercolor renditions of the same compositions of embroidery, fruits, porcelain and flowers. This, of course, was familiar territory for Tiongco but not for Galura, whose earliest still lifes were copied from mail-order catalogs in Saudi Arabia.



BY ALFRED Galura

Stark contrasts

The paintings from the still-life sessions provide us with a study in stark contrasts with neither artist suffering the inevitable comparison. In fact, Tiongco and Galura, through their collaboration, have given birth to a series of binary opposites, different but inextricably linked to one another, with meanings and contexts best understood only in juxtaposition.

Indeed, to see Tiongco's and Galura's works side by side is to witness a fellowship unfolding, forged in watercolor, rendered with profound skill and talent.

Tiongco's familiarity with the genre is evident in the delicate folds of his *callados*, and in the quiet grace of his table arrangement of flowers, fruit and china. His paintings in watercolor and pastel accord viewers with the highest of honors: we are invited, gently, as though in a whisper, to partake of his feast.

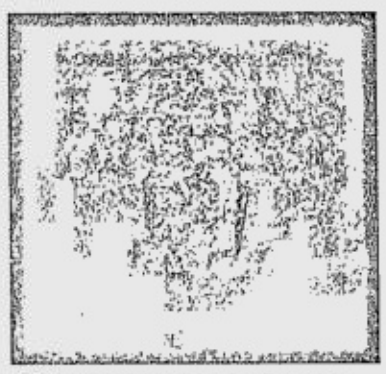
Galura, on the other hand, evokes a world beyond temporal pleasantries. His palette of brown and green hues envelops his subjects with an organic aura that is at once full of mystery yet reminiscent of his much celebrated landscapes.

"Variations on the Same Theme" runs on Oct. 27 to Nov. 11 at Gallery Nine, SM Artwalk, 4/F Megamall. Call 6877302.

Corcuera at Exchange Plaza, Art E Borsoto and Javier at West, Serra

VISUAL ARTS

TOP ADVERTISING ART DIRECTOR GIL Corcuera has devoted himself to his first love, sculpture, since retirement. He holds his first one-man exhibit, "Equilibrium," at the fountain area of Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Philippine Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave., until Oct. 26. Heavy metal, floating in the air. Lopsided shapes, balanced perfectly on a single point. Propelled by the wind, these sculptures twirl, sway and spin. Made of metal and wood, these are the kinetic sculptures demonstrating the physical law of balance in the face of forces such as the wind or the human touch. The pieces are organic shapes that are balanced with precision on top of fulcrums, so that they move constantly. The movement negates the very nature of metal, creating a completely fresh way to experience art. Corcuera's themes are celebratory, with pieces whimsically entitled "Abot-Kaya", "Mayon" "Sa Pag-ikot" and "Daing at Kamatis."



"STIMULUS 101," by Art Bermido

TOP YOUNG abstractionist Art Bermido will open his newest solo, "Stimulus," on Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Gallery (fourth floor, SM Megamall). Bermido, who finished fine arts and law at the University of Santo Tomas, continues his experimentation but employing this time a more daring use of color. Call 6373101.

Lawrence Borsoto explores how the personality aspires to do better in "Let's Get Physical," on view at West Gallery (48 West Avenue, QC) on Oct. 25-Nov. 12. The oil paintings on canvas and on paper show off Borsoto's talent for pictorial realism, composition, and insight. An award-winning artist, Borsoto took up fine arts at UST. Call 4110336/4119221.

MAG:NET Paseo features Jojo Serrano's "Objects and Horizons" on Oct. 28-Nov. 9 at the ground floor of Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati. The exhibit presents nine oil paintings that are offshoots from accumulated collages Serrano has recomposed. Call 8177895.

THE EMBASSY of Finland presents the traveling exhibition, "Alvar Aalto: Timeless Expressions," on Oct. 25-Nov. 13 at the fourth floor galleries of Ayala Museum. The exhibition highlights 16 one-family houses designed by Alvar Aalto. Call 7577117 to 21.

THE HERITAGE Park recently hosted the Guevarra Group of Artists for an on-the-spot painting session. The session was held in preparation for an art exhibit, "Images of Tranquility," starting Oct. 26.

"SA PAG-IKOT," by Gil Corcuera

GERALDINE Javier's "Veiled Hostility" ... on Oct. 27-Nov. 8 at West Gallery, Meg... A. The exhibit is a modern-day retellin...

"GUITARISTA," by Chito Antonio

Art exhibit-sale honors Doreen Fernandez

CATCH "ART FOR A CHAIR," AN art exhibit and sale in honor of Dr. Doreen Gamboa Fernandez, until Oct. 29, at Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The event is organized by the students and friends of the late English professor, writer and food columnist. Proceeds of "Art for a Chair" will support the Dr. Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Professorial Chair in the Humanities at the Loyola Schools of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The exhibit is open from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and on Saturdays, ... A memorial Mass w... 5 p.m. on the last ... hibit to mark Dore... on Oct. 28.

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PRIESTESSES chant to thank the spirits for the bounty they have blessed Taketomi with during the past year.

farm in southern Japan, Taketomi-jima thrives on tourism, its other industry. Tourists arrive by the ferry-load each day.

Questions

Now realizing that measures must be taken to preserve its unique heritage, Taketomi-jima residents are asking, "What happens when tourism and modernization threaten an indigenous culture?"

Residents carefully protect the rich tapestry of their indigenous culture. Rituals, festivals, traditions and customs remain alive through the generations and continue to be performed in the original manner. Traditions are not diluted to satisfy the tourists.

In fact, all tourists sensibly respect local traditions. The islands promote cultural tourism at its best.

Many generations of Taketomi-jima residents continue to entrust their well-being to spirits who care for every aspect of their lives—their land, sea, mountain, harvests, health, relationships, and so on.

Spirits dwell in sacred groves, forests or in secluded shoreline areas only accessible to priestesses. Ceremonies take place in an *utaki*, a small chapel near the entrance to each sacred place, where priestesses perform religious rituals.

The festival I attended gave thanks to the spirits for the bounty showered on Taketomi-jima. Two days of rituals acknowledged the past year's harvest of gifts, an act that wiped the slate clean to allow the asking for new favors during the coming year.

Priestesses prayed overnight in their *utakis*. People walked from one *utaki* to another bearing offerings.

At dawn everyone gathered in the main *utaki* for final ceremonies before breaking into a festival of traditional songs, dances and poetry which each person in the audience knew by heart. There was so much rapport in the Taketomi community at the festival, I felt I was intruding.

How, then, do strong local traditions survive into the next century in the face of modernization and tourism?

It helps that the Japanese government protects the physical, tangible aspects of Taketomi-jima, decreeing that none of the houses or the distinctive street pattern may be altered or demolished, nor can any new house be built in a nontraditional style.

The residents are determined to prevent their festivals, rituals and other traditional practices from vanishing. Should traditions ever vanish, what will be left of Taketomi is an empty envelope of well-preserved houses and streets without the traditions and practices that give them life.

From Taketomi, we learn that to keep a total picture of heritage for future generations, all its dimensions should be preserved—the physical and non-physical, the tangible and the intangible.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

ermido at Renaissance, o at Mag:Net

"YELLOW Painting," by Jojo Serrano

stories used by mothers and nannies to scare the children to keep them safe at home. Call 6341284.

A GROUP of flight attendants and stewards of Philippine Airlines will come out with an exhibit on Oct. 27-Nov. 11 at the 2nd floor of LRI Bldg., Nicanor Garcia Sr. St., Bel-Air II, Makati. The group is composed of Ramon Kleruif, Ayna Riza Novorra Tan, Rafael Hidalgo, Xavier, Mario Somera and Joana Regina Alberto. Part of the proceeds will go to the Ephesus Foundation. Call 8903988/7269015.

TOM Epperson mounts "Open Light," an exhibit of portraits, until Nov. 2 at the second floor, Museum Space of Ayala Museum, Makati. Call 7577117 to 21.

THE NATIONAL Museum presents "Inclination: Across Origins, Within Sight" until Dec. 31. Paintings of Juan Luna, Ramon Peralta and Martino Abellana mingle with video, installation, ethnographic and archeological artifacts and taxidermy. Call 5271215/5243005.

LOPEZ Memorial Museum exhibits the landscapes and drawings of Juan Arellano in "Juan Arellano: Drawing Space." The show runs until April 8, 2006, at G/F Benpres Bldg., Ortigas Center. Call 6312417.

ART Informal offers Fundamentals of Drawing workshops every Saturday, 2-5 p.m., until November. It's facilitated by Riel Hilario. Drawing the Head and Portrait is ongoing every Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, until November. Free starter kits are included in the drawing workshops. Art Informal is located at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong. Call 7258518.

PAINTER-ART teacher Fernando B. Sena is conducting an art workshop for children 8 years old and above every Wednesday, from 8 to 11:30 a.m., for eight weeks, at the UP Vargas Museum. He will also hold another art workshop for children aged 6 years and above, facilitated by artists Marcelo Baldomar and Danilo Parungao, every Sunday, from 9 to 11:30 a.m, for eight sessions. The Sunday workshop will start on Nov. 13. Registration is ongoing. Call UP Vargas Museum at 9281927 or Sena at 3762196.

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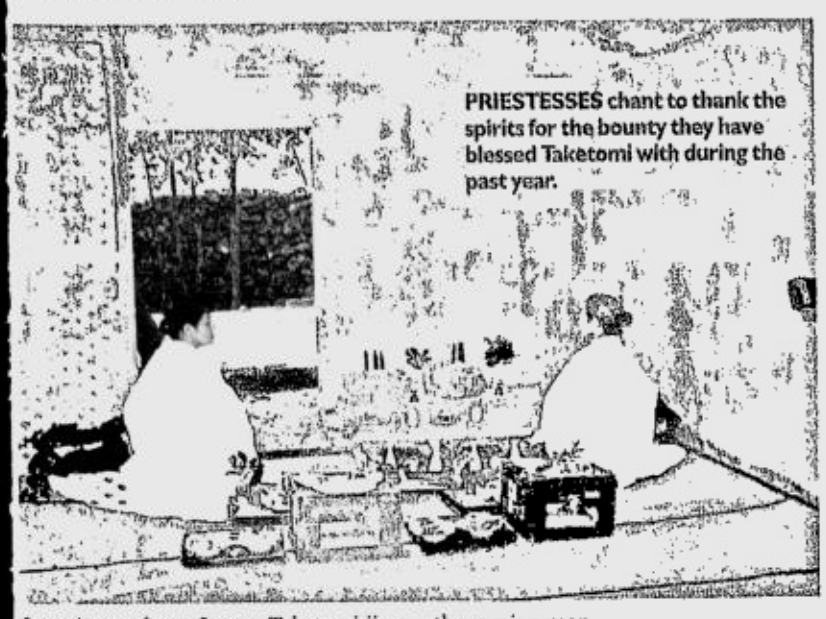

PRIESTESSES chant to thank the spirits for the bounty they have blessed Taketomi with during the past year.

farm in southern Japan, Taketomi-jima thrives on tourism, its other industry. Tourists arrive by the ferry-load each day.

Questions

Now realizing that measures must be taken to preserve its unique heritage, Taketomi-jima residents are asking, "What happens when tourism and modernization threaten an indigenous culture?"

Residents carefully protect the rich tapestry of their indigenous culture. Rituals, festivals, traditions and customs remain alive through the generations and continue to be performed in the original manner. Traditions are not diluted to satisfy the tourists.

In fact, all tourists sensibly respect local traditions. The islands promote cultural tourism at its best.

Many generations of Taketomi-jima residents continue to entrust their well-being to spirits who care for every aspect of their lives—their land, sea, mountain, harvests, health, relationships, and so on.

Spirits dwell in sacred groves, forests or in secluded shoreline areas only accessible to priestesses. Ceremonies take place in an *utaki*, a small chapel near the entrance to each sacred place, where priestesses perform religious rituals.

The festival I attended gave thanks to the spirits for the bounty showered on Taketomi-jima. Two days of rituals acknowledged the past year's harvest of gifts, an act that wiped the slate clean to allow the asking for new favors during the coming year.

Priestesses prayed overnight in their *utakis*. People walked from one *utaki* to another bearing offerings.

At dawn everyone gathered in the main *utaki* for final ceremonies before breaking into a festival of traditional songs, dances and poetry which each person in the audience knew by heart. There was so much rapport in the Taketomi community at the festival, I felt I was intruding.

How, then, do strong local traditions survive into the next century in the face of modernization and tourism?

It helps that the Japanese government protects the physical, tangible aspects of Taketomi-jima, decreeing that none of the houses or the distinctive street pattern may be altered or demolished, nor can any new house be built in a nontraditional style.

The residents are determined to prevent their festivals, rituals and other traditional practices from vanishing. Should traditions ever vanish, what will be left of Taketomi is an empty envelope of well-preserved houses and streets without the traditions and practices that give them life.

From Taketomi, we learn that to keep a total picture of heritage for future generations, all its dimensions should be preserved—the physical and non-physical, the tangible and the intangible.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

ermido at Renaissance, io at Mag:Net

"YELLOW Painting," by Jojo Serrano

stories used by mothers and nannies to scare the children to keep them safe at home. Call 6341284.

A GROUP of flight attendants and stewards of Philippine Airlines will come out with an exhibit on Oct. 27-Nov. 11 at the 2nd floor of LRI Bldg., Nicanor Garcia Sr. St., Bel-Air II, Makati. The group is composed of Ramon Kierulf, Ayna Riza Novorra Tan, Rafael Hidalgo, Xavier, Mario Somera and Joana Regina Alberto. Part of the proceeds will go to the Ephesus Foundation. Call 8903988/7269015.

TOM Epperson mounts "Open Light," an exhibit of portraits, until Nov. 2 at the second floor, Museum Space of Ayala Museum, Makati. Call 7577117 to 21.

THE NATIONAL Museum presents "Inclination: Across Origins, Within Sight" until Dec. 31. Paintings of Juan Luna, Ramon Peralta and Martino Abellana mingle with video, installation, ethnographic and archeological artifacts and taxidermy. Call 5271215/5243005.

LOPEZ Memorial Museum exhibits the landscapes and drawings of Juan Arellano in "Juan Arellano: Drawing Space." The show runs until April 8, 2006, at G/F Benpres Bldg., Ortigas Center. Call 6312417.

ART Informal offers Fundamentals of Drawing workshops every Saturday, 2-5 p.m., until November. It's facilitated by Riel Hilario. Drawing the Head and Portrait is ongoing every Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, until November. Free starter kits are included in the drawing workshops. Art Informal is located at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong. Call 7258518.

PAINTER-ART teacher Fernando B. Sena is conducting an art workshop for children 8 years old and above every Wednesday, from 8 to 11:30 a.m., for eight weeks, at the UP Vargas Museum. He will also hold another art workshop for children aged 6 years and above, facilitated by artists Marcelo Baldomar and Danilo Parungao, every Sunday, from 9 to 11:30 a.m, for eight sessions. The Sunday workshop will start on Nov. 13. Registration is ongoing. Call UP Vargas Museum at 9281927 or Sena at 3762196.

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RICCI Chan

The naked and the playing-dead

From page C1

which is to say the rest of "Penis Talks 2," is not the fault of Chan's co-actors that include Jay Manalo, Luis Alandy, Christian Vazquez, Polo Ravales, Paolo Paraiso, Reggie Curley, RJ Rosales, Rich Vergara, Roselle Nava and Joy Viado (assisted by nine hunks wearing yellow thongs and billed primly as the "chorus").

God knows acting on stage can be terrifying,

Getting past 'Penis Talks 2's' risible psychology without cringing poses a big challenge

but doing it in your barely-there undies must be hell. No, the fault, dear Brutus, is not in these stars, but in the material as conjured by the gilded team of writer Ricky Lee and directors Joel Lamangan and Mel Chionglo.

THE MAIN cast of "All About Men 2... Penis Talks Reloaded"

Credentials

These three gentlemen need no introduction. So here are some samples of what passes for wit, comedy and theatrical diction (not the enunciation of words, but the quality of the text) in "Penis Talks 2."

A nervous sperm (Ravales in loose, all-white pajamas and head wrap) outruns, slow-motion, the other sperm cells to the background music of Vangelis' "Chariots of Fire." He sees an egg cell (Nava, encased in an all-white body suit and giant ball) and exclaims, "Wow, *siya na yata ang pinakamagandang* egg cell *sa balat ng* ovary!"

They meet, they hold hands, they sing a medley of one-line snatches from various songs, beginning with "Fancy meeting you alone in the crowd" and ending with (to the tune of "Got To Believe In Magic") "'Coz it's magic when two chromosomes fall in loooove."

Vince De Jesus is credited as the musical director and composer of the show's 25-odd songs, but the playbill doesn't say if he also wrote the lyrics. Whoever the librettist is must be in serious need of remedial Science class. The egg and the sperm cell each carries 23 chromosomes, accounting for the 46 chromosomes we all have. Females carry two XX chromosomes, males carry one X and one Y.

Comedy, camp, farce—they are no excuse for sloppy, suspect writing, for lines that flout logic, or worse, that confuses what is truly, provocatively funny with what is merely tasteless. Especially in a show that has hyped itself as a thoughtful if lighthearted examination of sexual issues not often talked about, in the manner of Eve Ensler's groundbreaking "The Vagina Monologues."

Salaciousness

"Penis Talks 2's" salaciousness is hardly jolting. Nowadays, any third-rate comedy bar can dish it out, and with more playful alacrity. It's getting past the material's risible psychology without cringing that poses a bigger challenge.

We are supposed to laugh, for instance, at a line uttered by a clueless hermaphrodite (played by Chan) who, distressed at not having his/her period yet, says something unprintable in its crude original form but which roughly translates to "I've even downed Xenical and passed off the oily discharge as my period!"

The show drags the character through all sorts of scrapes involving his/her dual sex organs. Deliverance, if you will, comes only in the form of a "bisexual" hunk who makes use of both sexes, to the hermaphrodite's supposed fulfillment.

Sound science? We don't know. But the glib, lazy way the material is handled inspires no reassurance.

Characteristically, after having razzed the character to bits, the vignette ends with hectoring bromides about the need for kindness and tolerance toward others seen as "different."

"Penis Talks 2's" dramatic design is clear by this time. Play up the freakishness for laughs, then turn around to warn against bigotry and narrow-mindedness, trusting that the audience would be too far into the flesh parade to notice the bogusness of the high-minded niceties.

Bizarre number

An ensuing sequence has the chiseled Vazquez playing a hunchback necrophiliac who, as the narrator helpfully explains it, is driven to seek solace in the morgue by constant social rejection.

Then, in possibly the most bizarre musical number ever mounted on a local stage, the ensemble fans out to become upright corpses while Vazquez humps their legs like a dog and sings, "*Sa punebre at requiem ako'y kumakahol, parang asong mabangis, naglalaway, nauulol!*"

But, really, "Penis Talks 2" is a meditation on benevolence. The necrophiliac is redeemed by the arrival of a cadaver that, for once, he learns to respect and love. No, not just any corpse. An AIDS victim's corpse.

"*Hitsura pa lang, alam mo nang namatay sa* AIDS," intones the narrator. One more strike for bad science. How do you identify by sight the remains of an AIDS victim? By an Ash Wednesday cross on its forehead, perhaps, marking it as HIV-positive of late?

The necrophiliac, undaunted, embraces the body. Cue for the ensemble to rouse themselves from death-like stupor and mouth, in "*sabayang pagbigkas,*" the "*magandang aral*" of the tale: "*Huwag manghusga*" and similar self-pleasuring tripe.

Banal parts

It would be nice to say the show's more serious parts play better, but they suffer from another affliction: banality.

The play's concession to "social relevance" is to mix necrophiliacs and hermaphrodites with abused children and OFWs—all sketched with the broad, indistinct strokes that suggest Lee never trawled far from his emporium of easy stereotypes in writing "Penis Talks 2."

A weepy Manalo gets to play an OFW accused of killing his Arab employer, in an agonizingly long segment better suited to "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Alandy, meanwhile, apparently hoping to relive the acclaim he got from "Penis Talks 1" where he persuasively essayed the role of an abused child, sought to extend the franchise by playing the same character, but now as an adult suffering from a mysterious case of erectile dysfunction. Voila! He is cured only when he remembers his past and learns to forgive the father who violated him.

Same play

This is essentially the same play that got Lamangan the Aliw Award for Best Director for a Musical Play in 2004.

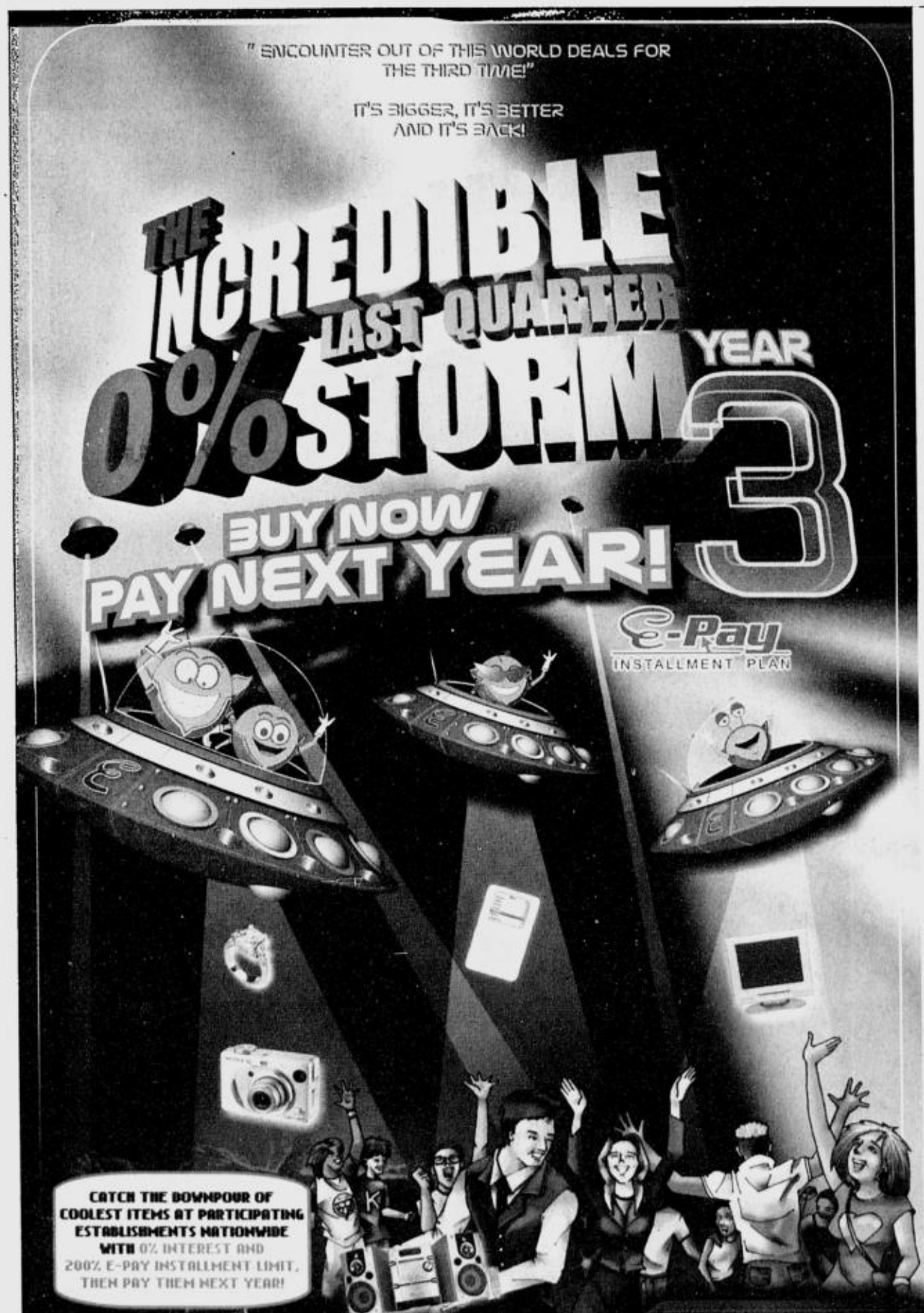
The genre is usually defined by the presence of an extensive musical, and particularly vocal, score. That a collage of loose sketches with the barest music and singing in it could help its director win over last year's true-blue musicals (Atlantis Productions' "Baby," Trumpets' "Mr. Noah's Big Boat," Rep's "Fame," Tanghalang Pilipino's "Himala, the Musical" and New Voice Company's "Cabaret") is, to put it mildly, a puzzlement.

"Plays, it goes without saying, can and do act as mouthpieces for their authors' ideas and visions," said the theater critic Hilton Als.

In light of its creators' pedigree, and keeping Als' words in mind, "Penis Talks 2" stands as the "Jumbo Hotdog" of all puzzlements.

"All About Men 2... Penis Talks Reloaded" runs until Oct. 28. Call 7210635, 7216726, 3741361, 4150373, 8915610 or 8919999.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph



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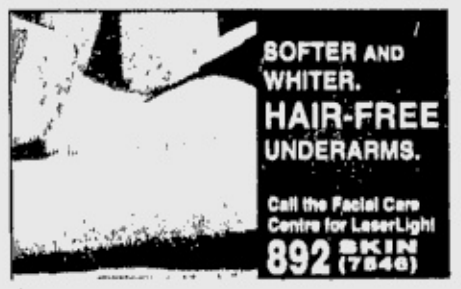


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Curse in progress

Writing is a curse. More so if you are a Filipino-American writer coming to terms with your motherland

By R. Zamora Linmark
Contributor

(Excerpts from a talk given at University of St. La Salle in Bacolod and University of San Agustin in Iloilo last week. The author is a leading young Filipino-American writer whose novel, "Rolling the R's," published by Kaya Press of New York, is required reading in Asian-American literature courses in the United States. In the excerpts, he talks about the gestation of the novel.)

IT IS 1993, Honolulu. You are 25 years old and you are hanging on to this gone-to-the-dogs world because, despite everything that has happened, good and bad, your Absolut vodka-induced reflection tells you not to worry, you can still make a thrift store-bought shirt look like an Armani.

Besides, you're now a published poet, your award-winning poem read by faculty and students of a small private college in the Pacific Northwest of the United States of America. And though it is the only poem of yours that has made it across the Pacific, you don't mind, you've still got another century to look forward to.

Besides, you're young, gifted, a brownie bastard carrying a white man's name and living on an island only 90 Americans outside your state know is the 50th star on the United States flag.

Bored with your life, and without a credit card to max, you combat ennui by trying to make your parents sick.

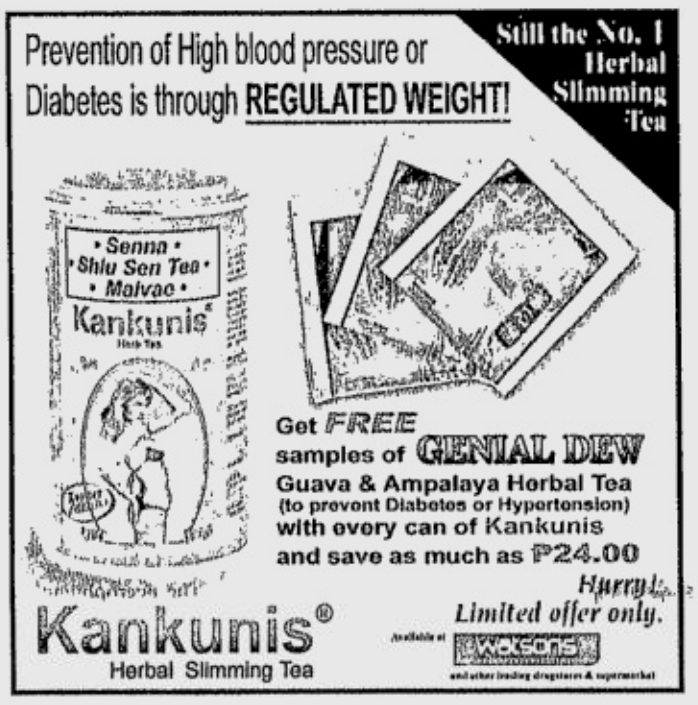
"I'm going back to school," you say.

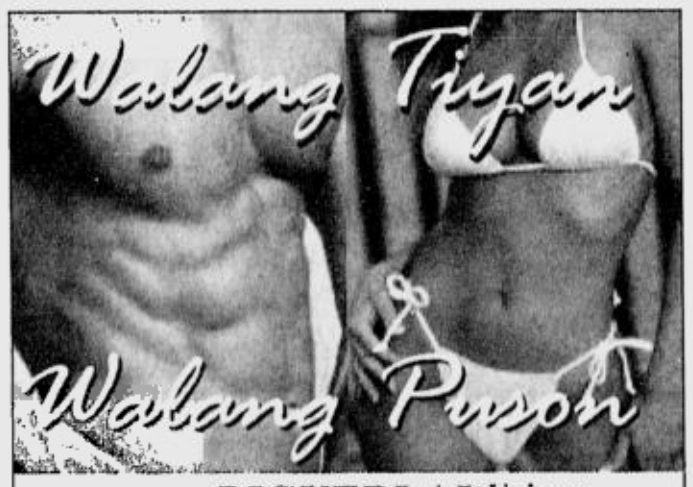
"Med or law?" they ask.

"No," you say, "M.A," pause, "in Literature."

They don't say anything, they don't

CURSE/ D2





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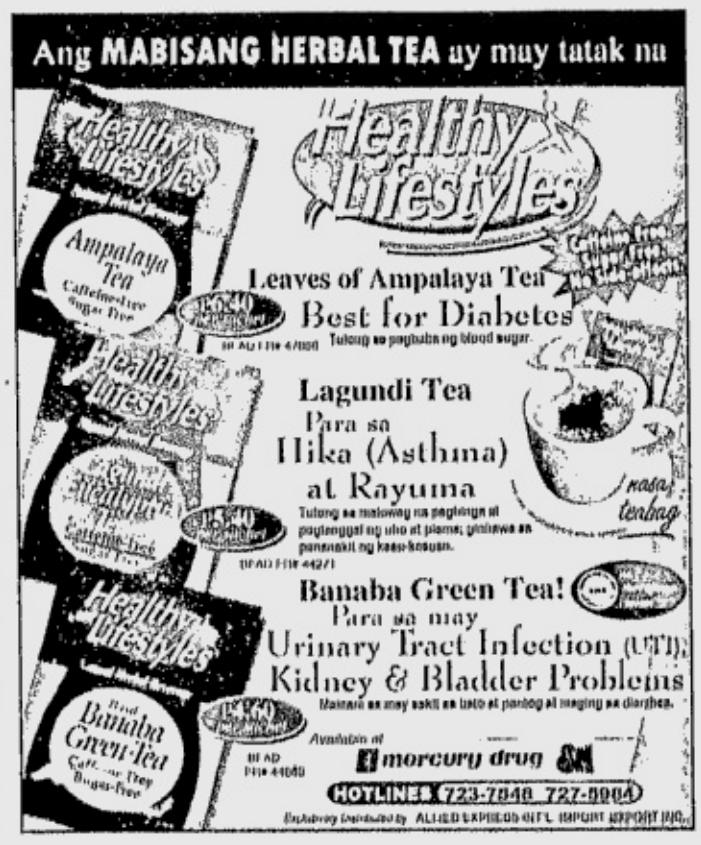

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Curse in progress

From page D1

threat you with an eviction notice, they don't repeat their "Vagina Monologues"-length reminders that majoring in Literature is a career suicide, only good for toilet-paper substitute, and they no longer try to convince you there's no meaning none whatsoever of life in Literature, and if there are, they're crawling blindly at the murky bottom of subtexts.

Instead, they excommunicate you, your mother crosses your name off as primary beneficiary in her State Farm Insurance plan, while your father asks you to give back his name.

Who cares?

Your first year in graduate school makes you restless and more useless than a cup of decaf; even a key chain has more function than you. Who cares if Christopher Marlowe was the probable mask behind William Shakespeare, or Byron played Sugar Daddy to Greek boys during his exile in Greece—why not? He was in the perfect place for role-playing. Who cares what poet drowned in which river, or which poet baked her head at 450 °F?

"Who cares?" you say again and again: a refrain to your fast and inevitable descent. So you brace yourself. You consult the mirror.

You know exactly what's wrong: You have not fully recovered from your first trip back to the Philippines in '91, the former motherland that you left when you were at the tender altarboy age of nine. You try to erase from memory the shock of reuniting with your childhood country while a volcano, after 600 years of solitude, shot up sand and ashes and scattered them across Siberia.

You want to forget the chaos and clichéd snapshots of a city ravaged by poverty, prostitutes, politicians and priests. You want the dreams that smell of diesel fumes, dog shit, fried banana, barbecue meat and burning trash to end.

And though one of your greatest fears in life is forgetfulness (or being forgotten), you're willing to sell the soul of your memories of Philippines '91 to the Devil, even if the trade-off is trans-global amnesia.

But memory—that trespasser in your life which you have now associated with fate, karma and curse—won't let you. It doesn't want you to forget—or let go of—the missing piece of dirt in your heart you once called home.

"I'm screwed," you tell your graduate thesis advisor Faye, whom you now refer to as your "Mentor, my tormentor."

"Unscrew it," she says.

"How?"

"Go back to Manila," she says, "and dump what you don't need. Then come home and dump the rest on the page."

THE AUTHOR. "Memory doesn't let go of the missing piece of dirt in your heart you once called home."

You obey her. She knows torture better than you do. You go back to Marcosland, trade the Hawaiian sun for monsoon and dengue-mosquito scare.

Within a week you're back to battling diarrhea and hanging on to the remains of your frayed nerves; within a week you're poster boy-candidate for Immodium, Lithium and suicide crisis centers.

So, to get your mind momentarily off the razor blade, you shack up with a thespian, who, after a night of pasta, Shiraz Cabernet, and Ella Fitzgerald Sings Cole Porter, loves you so much you want to take the first flight back to Honolulu.

Second time

But this second time around, you notice that the second most corrupt country in the world is really not that bad, bearable even, less reverse culturally shocking than the Philippines circa 1991.

This second time around you are more relaxed in the land of rolling revolution and brownouts; in fact, you feel so-so right at home you even thought of feasting on the idea of living half of the year in the post-American tropical gothic and the other half in Hawaii, a.k.a. post-American tropical baroque.

This second time around you are more tolerant of gridlock traffic, pollution, broken people, homeless glue-sniffing kids, ubiquitous missing sidewalk pieces, unprofessionalism, customer service-less, and the tactlessness of strangers claiming to be your long-lost relatives and offering you dollars to bring their daughters to the promised land: Hollywood.

This second time around you are more resigned to the Third-going-on-Fourth World fact that each Filipino is for him- or herself, until the next Senate hearing-inspired revolution comes along.

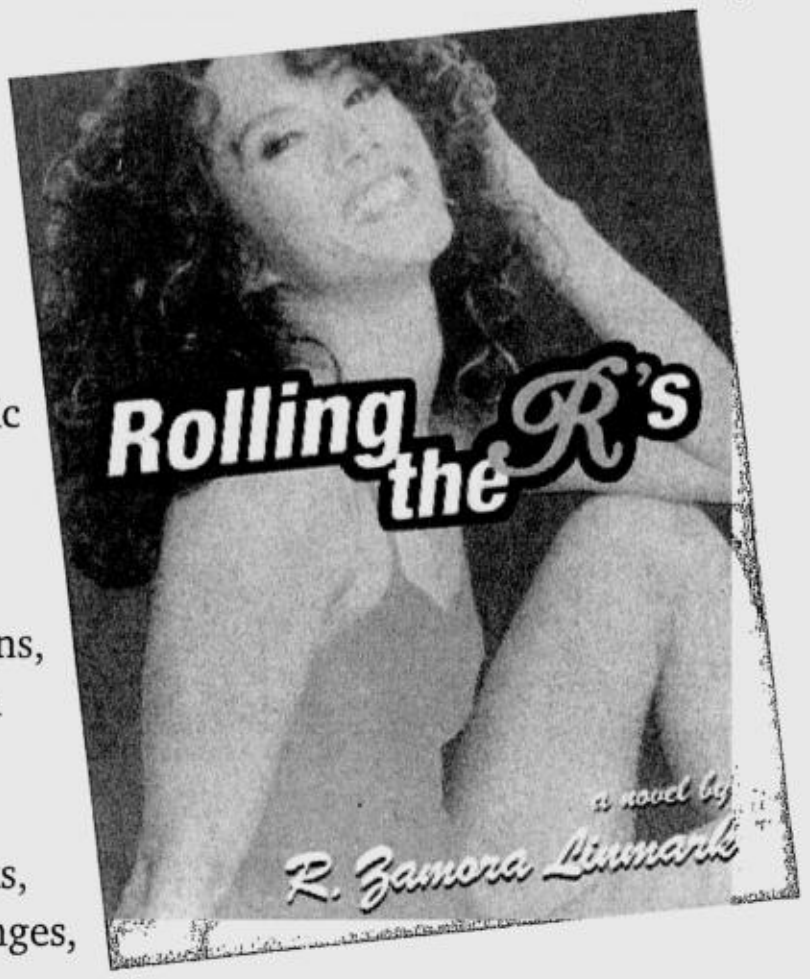
This second time around you do not feel as displaced, as anxious, as easily irritable as you did in '91, although the motorists' disregard for pedestrians, menus in which two-thirds of the entrées are not available, and the dangling spaghetti of electric wires still manage to raise your blood pressure to a record-breaking high.

This second time around you no longer dare to try and convince others that this city, punished by rain, heat, melodrama, self-absorbed entertainers aspiring to be self-serving politicians, is still your home.

This second time around you actually make the distinction between "from" and "of." This second time around you no longer insist that you're a Filipino to Filipinos who insist you're as apple pie as American or as banana split as Filipino American.

This second time around you know exactly where your identity fits: somewhere in the in-betweenness, or what Joseph Conrad calls "The horror! The horror!"

This second time around you're more cognitive of your masochistic tendencies and your purgatorial-reflected obsessions, for you will return again and again to this city that frustrates, irks, nauseates, challenges, saddens, and leaves you utterly, hopelessly helpless, etcetera, when it's not breaking the remains of your heart, disorienting your soul, or sexing your imagination.



'This second time around you're more cognitive of your masochistic tendencies and your purgatorial-reflected obsessions, for you will return again and again to this city that frustrates, irks, nauseates, challenges, saddens, and leaves you utterly, hopelessly helpless, etcetera'

LINMARK will talk about the writing of his poetry collection on Oct. 28.

R. Zamora Linmark is featured with Filipino poet Marjorie Evasco in "Writers in Conversation" on Oct. 28, 6 p.m., at A Different Bookstore, Eastwood City, Libis. He will talk about writing "Prime Time Apparitions," his poetry collection that has just been released by the Hanging Press of New York.

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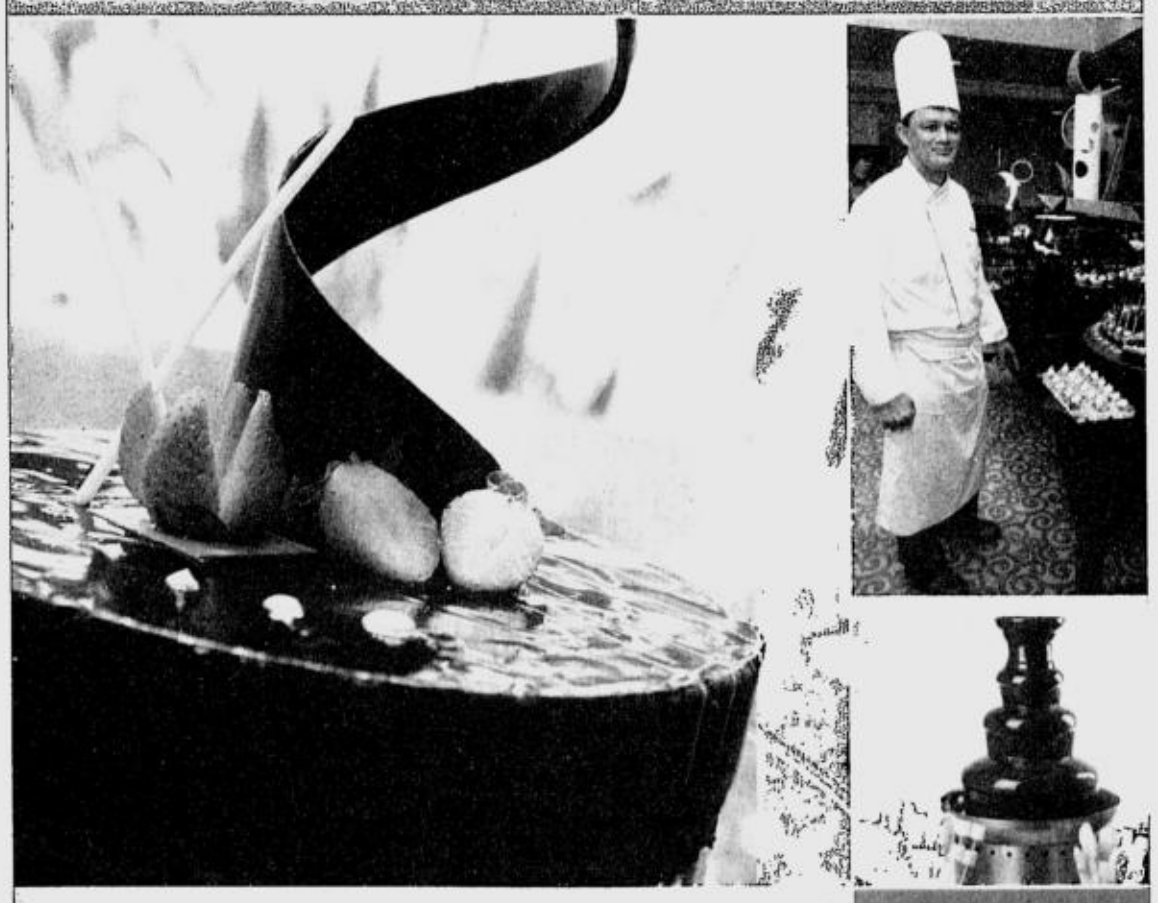

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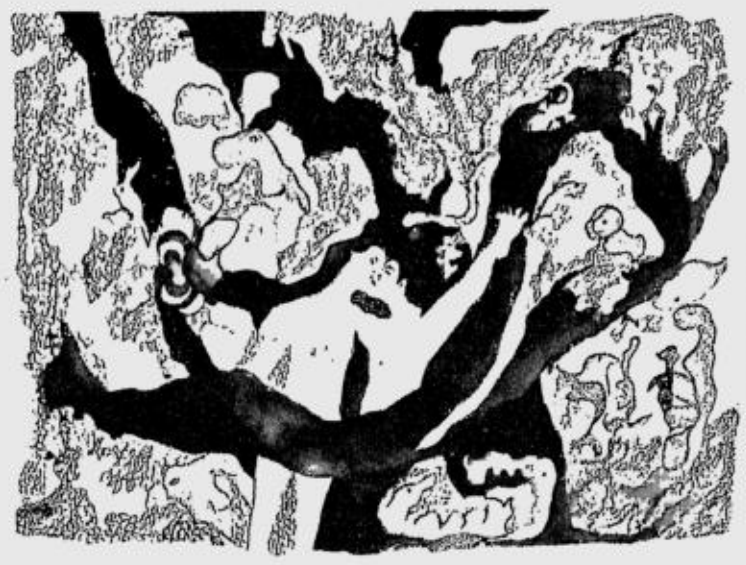

"THE TREE of Knowledge of Good and Evil," by Gilda Cordero-Fernando

Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Sylvia Ventura hold art show, launch books

WRITER-ARTISTS GILDA Cordero-Fernando and Sylvia Ventura hold a joint exhibit at The Podium until Oct. 26, and at the Liongoren Gallery (111 New York St., Cubao, QC) on Oct. 27-Nov. 7.

Both women work on aquarelle as medium. Fernando's series, "Paraisong Gulong-gulo," focuses on Adam and Eve, while Ventura tackles florals.

During the Liongoren Gallery opening, Fernando's memoirs, "The Last Full Moon: Lessons on My Life," will be launched, along with "A Literary Journey with Gilda Cordero-Fernando," a critique of Fernando's short stories by Ventura.

Call 9124319/ 4393962.

"AMARYLLIS," by Sylvia Mendez-Ventura

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Celebrating its 8th Year in the Philippines!

JCB, the only International Credit Card Brand based in Asia.

JCB's Country Representative Mr. Shunichi Hatano shared his views with the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) regarding JCB's remarkable success in the Philippines.

PDI: What does JCB stand for?

S. HATANO: JCB stands for the distinct Japanese culture of respect, trust, and honor. Filipinos and Japanese share the same values.

One of JCB's thrusts is innovation and technology which is the main springboard to its continuous success. JCB is a global leader in introducing chip technology into payment solutions, including EMV and contactless products.

PDI: What makes JCB Card unique?

S. HATANO: JCB Card is **the only Asian brand** competing with the giant American credit cards. In a highly competitive credit card industry, JCB stands out with its unique set-up. We are not only a brand holder but also a card issuer, a merchant acquirer, a network provider and a processor. Our years of experience and our success story in Japan speaks that we have the know-how to share with our partners and Cardmembers.

Our philosophy is **SERVICE from the heart**. It is our commitment to responsive, high quality service. We have always aimed to be more than a standard credit card by offering the highest quality services in addition to the most convenient, efficient and reliable payment products. This is one of the reasons why JCB is now a major international card brand.

We offer **next-generation solutions** which provide products and services that satisfy our customers and partners. Our best practices in Japan include customized card statements, no signature payment, mobile on-line payment, & automatic billing.

PDI: What are JCB's immediate plans for the Philippine market?

S. HATANO: We are more concerned on offering products & services that please our customers, and supporting these products with the Japanese-style service that our customers have come to appreciate worldwide.

Secondly, we are concentrating on increasing our Cardmember base in the Philippines, and improving our market share. We know the local market is dominated by the two (2) card brands. However, our goal is not to get the majority of the market share but to zoom in on improving our services and attracting Cardmembers. With this, we are continuously enhancing JCB's brand identity for our Cardmember's satisfaction.

PDI: How do you plan to increase the market acceptance of JCB in Philippines?

S. HATANO: We implement yearly brand promotions and campaigns. This year we launched the "P1Million JCB Credit Reload' which runs from August to October 2005. This encourages our Cardmembers to use the JCB Card more! Moreover, we have launched our local JCB TV ad campaign in April this year to reinforce JCB's brand awareness.

We have accelerated signing up merchants to close coverage gap and prioritize affiliating those where our Cardmembers frequently visit.

PDI: How do you plan to get a significant share of the remaining untapped Cardmember base in Philippines?

S. HATANO: Bankard's myDream JCB, with a uniquely low annual fee of P800, compared to the usual P1,200, and a finance charge rate of 2.5% compared to the usual range of 3.25%-3.5%, for example, appeals to this vast consumer market.

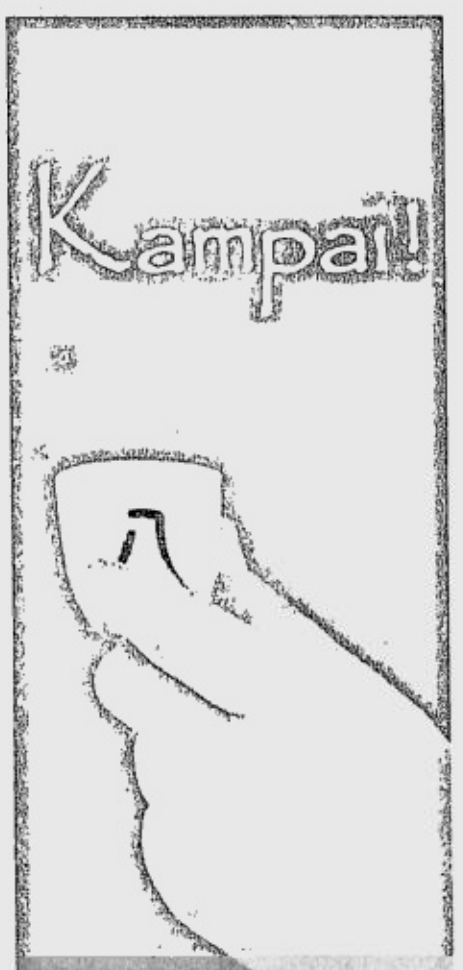
On the other hand, Equitable's EasyPay JCB Card, has the lowest monthly minimum income of P5,000 and is specifically designed to appeal to the ordinary worker with an annual fee only one-third of the average annual fee of other credit cards, and a unique installment plan tailored to the ordinary worker's salary payment cycle. The EasyPay JCB Card features are targeted to the mass market.

PDI: JCB is the no. 1 credit card issuer in Japan and is a globally- recognized brand. How will you leverage these advantages for the benefit of the local market?

S. HATANO: With JCB's unique set up, we have a wealth of experience from around the world in developing new card products, launching special campaigns with merchants, travel agencies, & tourist bureaus and more.

Just an example of JCB as an issuer, we deal directly with our Cardmembers and provide them with the high quality personal service. We have JCB Plazas, a network of customer service lounges, in the heart of 31 major world cities. These JCB Plazas are directly operated by JCB and connected by an on-line network, so you can reserve a ticket to the opera in Vienna, a restaurant in Paris, or a sporting event in the US at any JCB Plaza in the world.

We are sharing these experiences locally with our partners.



Exclusive 'Fragrance Credit Card' from JCB

Aroma Marketing in the Credit Card Industry

Exclusive "Fragrance Credit Card" from JCB
(Photo courtesy of Schwarzwalder Restaurant, Makati City)

For many centuries people have been aware that fragrance has a powerful effect on the human psyche, but did not fully understand the mechanism involved. However, over the past few decades the psychology of smell has been the subject of scientific research, opening the door to many practical applications of scent and aroma in the business world.

For example, the scent of lavender has been proven to decrease the perception of stress and enhance relaxation, enabling the hotel industry to create a more relaxing hotel lobby with fragrance. Other retail industries are using specific fragrances to attract customers off the streets into the store, and increase the amount of time that customers spend inside the shop.

Now JCB has developed the JCB Fragrance Card, and is providing the technology to its card issuers interested in designing more attractive card products. According to Ms. Judith Goc-ong-Dumapay, Marketing Manager of JCB Philippines, "With this exclusive scenting technology developed in collaboration by Asian companies, a plastic credit card can be scented with a fragrance that will last for about three (3) years, depending on its usage." "The Fragrance Card offers new product potential in both design and function. A card targeted to fashion-conscious young women, the Lady's Card segment, can incorporate a hit perfume. Or, in terms of added functional value, a card targeted to frequent travelers could be scented with lavender to help relieve the stress associated with air and other forms of transport. And the Fragrance Card is a great opportunity to keep on sending a warm message to Cardmembers," Ms. Dumapay added.

This JCB scenting technology allows the creation of many different fragrances, for enhanced design possibilities, increased functionality, and even to convey a unique personality and mood. Think of the fun and excitement of the scent of mango wafting from your credit card!

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Cheers to JCB's 8th year anniversary!

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Spanish, Filipino writers in literary discussions

INSTITUTO CERVANTES INVITES EVERYone with a passion for the written word to an eventful week rich with discussions on Spanish and Filipino letters.

After a successful tour of Sao Paolo and London, "A Week of Spanish Literature: Traces and Journeys" comes to Manila in connection with Fiesta, the 2005 Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts in Manila. Eight writers will be coming to Manila from Spain to hold discussions with their Filipino counterparts.

The series of activities will open today, with a commemorative event for the Philippine national hero, Jose Rizal, and runs until Oct. 27.

The visiting Spanish writers are Espido Freire, Eduardo Jordá, Almudena Solana, Alfonso Armada, Aurora Luque, Menchu Gutiérrez, Fran Alonso and David Castillo. Each of the Spanish writers will give a short talk on his or her particular vision of travel and travel writing. This is a remarkable opportunity for Filipino lovers of literature for contact with the leading figures in the contemporary Spanish literary scene.

The Filipino writers participating in the different talks are Alfred Yuson, Marjorie Evasco, Lito Zulueta, Pete Lacaba, Jessica Zafra, Dinah Roma, Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, Macario Ofilada, Salvador Malig Jr., Erwin Bautista, Wystan de la Peña, Marra Lanot and R. Zamora Linmark.

Highlight of the week will be "A Literary Evening," on Oct. 26 at the Zen Garden in Greenbelt 3 at 8 p.m. The evening will feature poetry readings and a performance by the UP Singing Ambassadors.

The Week of Spanish Literature will be the last in a series of activities in connection with the Fiesta. Below is the program.

EDUARDO Jordá

AURORA Luque

MENCHU Gutiérrez

Oct. 24

• 3 p.m.—Panel discussion on "What Am I Doing Here? Travel Writing"

• 7 p.m.—Literary conferences with Eduardo Jorda on "Waiting for the Storm," and Espido Freire on "Words Against Time"

Oct. 25

•10 a.m.—Panel discussion on "Lost in Translation: Translation as a Journey"

• 7 p.m.—Literary conferences with Alfonso Armada on "Border and Writing," and Almudena Solana on "Nomadic and Forgetful"

Oct. 26

• 10 a.m.—Panel discussion on "Lost Traces: Philippine Literature in Spanish"

• 3 p.m.—Literary conferences with Menchu Gutierrez on "Geography of the Mist," and Aurora Luque on "Ulysses' Suitcase: Poetry and Travel"

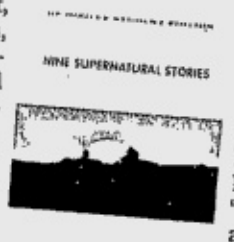
Oct. 27

• 10 a.m.—Panel discussion on "Asia-Europa, Mutual (Mis)Perceptions"

• 3 p.m.—Literary conferences with Fran Alonzo on "The Journey Within," and David Castillo on "On the Road"

Ghost fiction collection

"NINE SUPERNATURAL STOries" edited by April Timbol Yap and Lara Saguisag and published by the University of the Philippines Press (UP Press) as part of its UP Jubilee Student Edition 2005 series, brings together nine "scare" stories by Adel Gabot, Angelo Lacuesta, Emil Flores, Anna Felicia Sanchez, Carl Joe Javier, Vlad Gonzales, Virginia Villanueva, Roel Manipon and Robert Basilio. But this anthology hopes to tell a different sort of supernatural story to show how the genre has a much larger range than is generally known.



The nine short narratives cast the supernatural in different lights: action-packed story, mystery, love story, comedy and, of course, those that will make you look over your shoulder as you read... just to make sure.

April Timbol Yap is the author of "Stressed in the City," a collection of humorous essays, and one of the authors of a series of best-selling English grammar booklets published by Milflores. She teaches at UP Diliman, said to be a haven for ghosts and all sorts of restless spirits.

Her co-editor, Lara Saguisag, is the author of several children's books, including "There's a Duwende in my Brother's Soup" and "Tonyo's Wishes," and the forthcoming "Cat Eyes." She also used to teach at UP, but is currently studying in New York, a haunted city, and working on a novel for young adults and a collection of poems for children.

The book is available at the UP Press Bookstore, Aeon Books in Katipunan, Popular Bookstore in T. Morato, Solidaridad, PowerBooks, National Book Store and Fully Booked.

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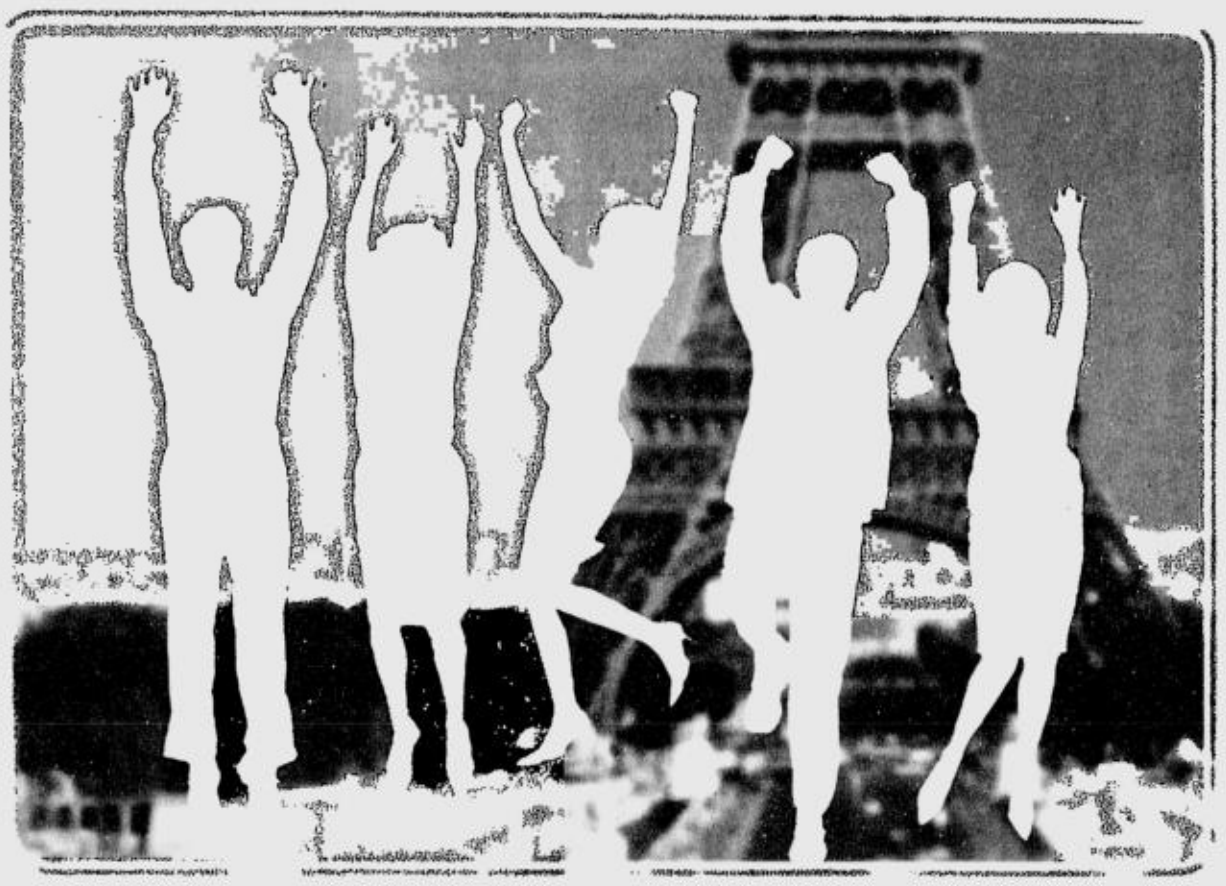

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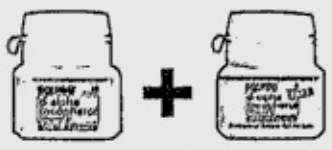
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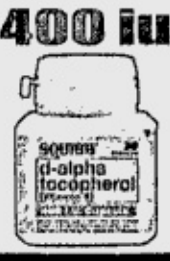
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